ANOTHER FINE KAPPA PUBLICATION

The RING®

"The Bible Of Boxing"®

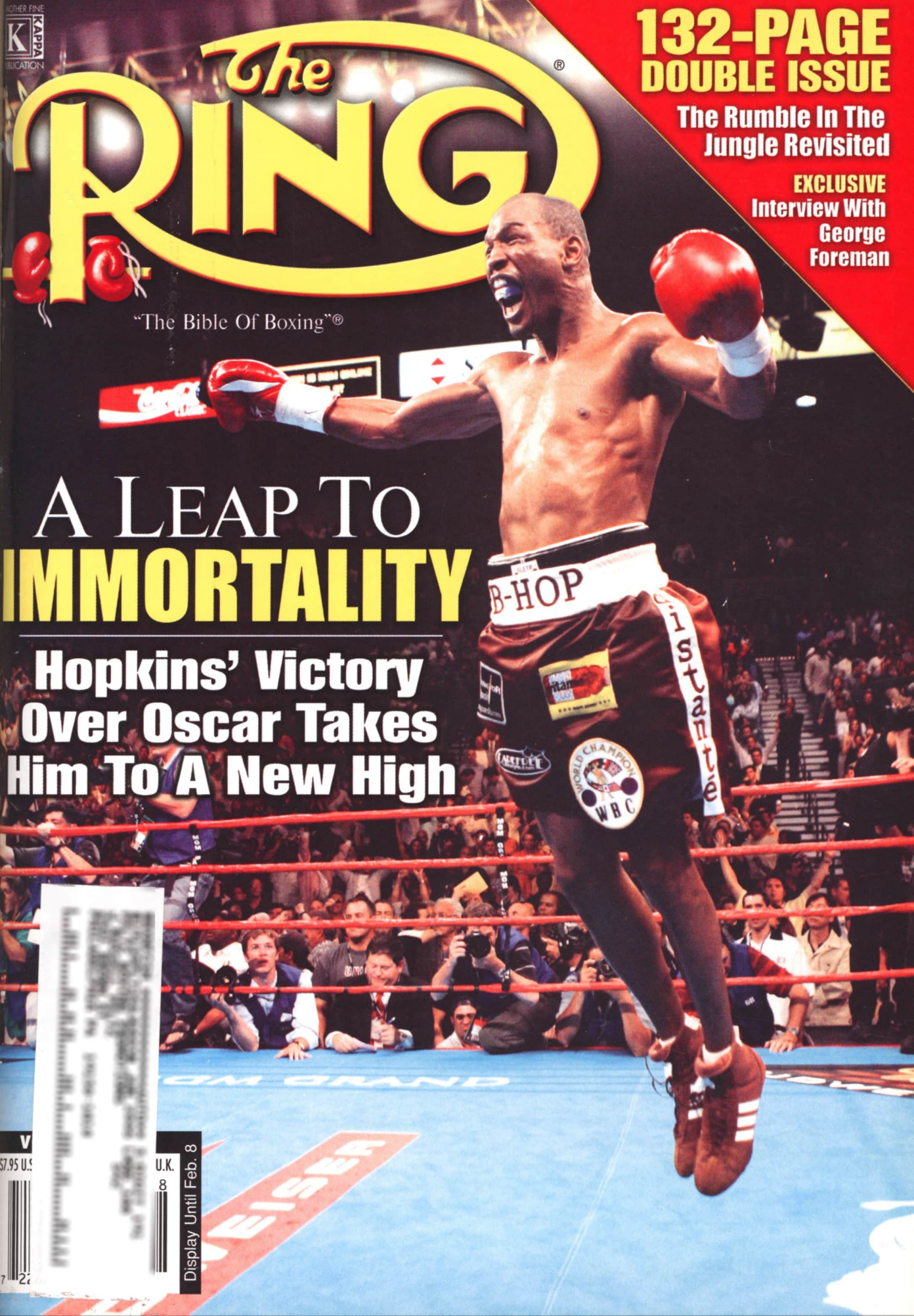
132-PAGE DOUBLE ISSUE

The Rumble In The Jungle Revisited

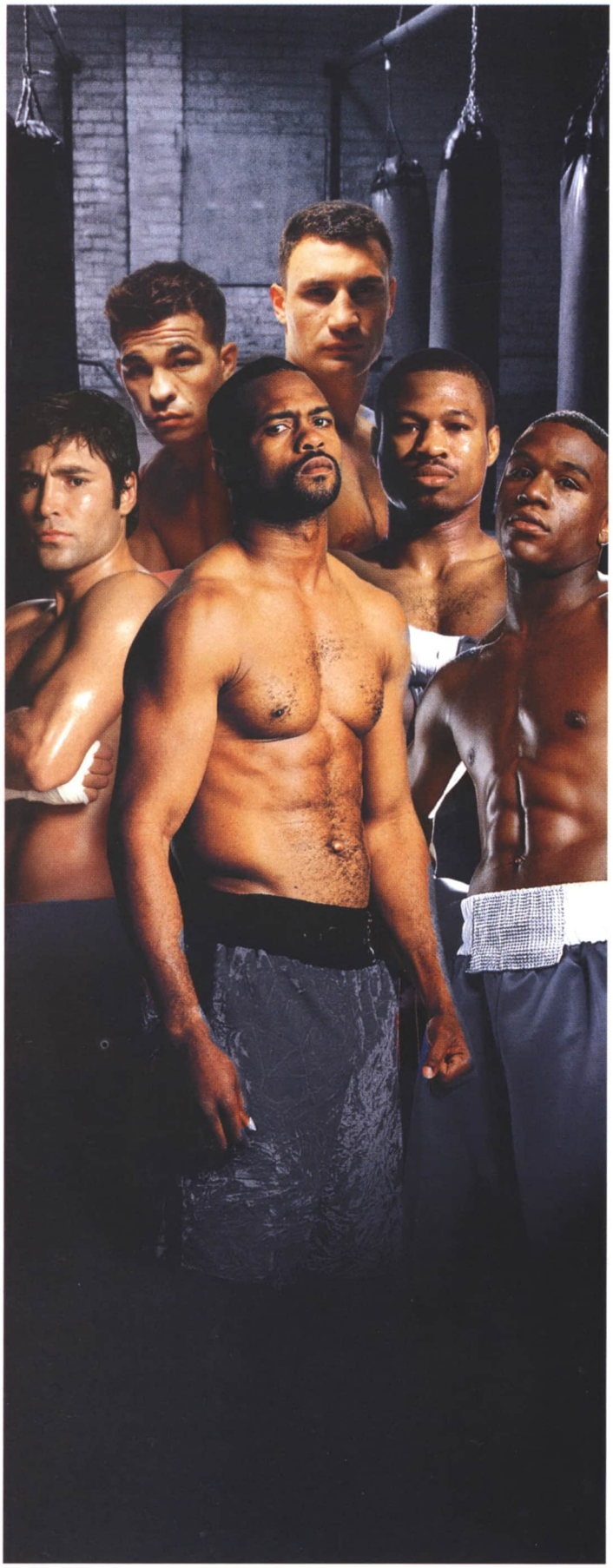
EXCLUSIVE Interview With George Foreman

A LEAP TO IMMORTALITY

Hopkins' Victory Over Oscar Takes Him To A New High



$7.95 U.S. U.K.
Display Until Feb. 8



HBO World Championship Boxing®

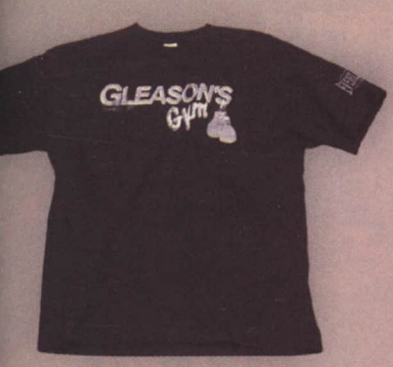
Legendary.

"It will make you glad your couch converts so easily to a ringside seat."

–The Sporting News

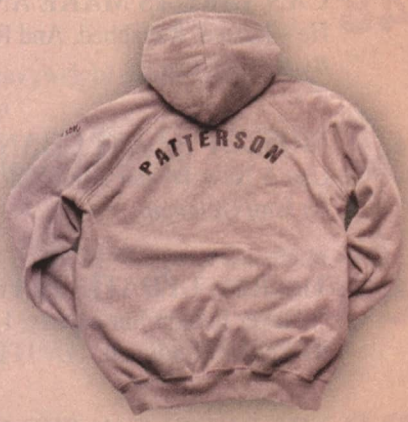
HBO SPORTS®

Subscribe online at HBO.com AOL Keyword: HBO ©2004 Home Box Office, Inc. All rights reserved. ® Service marks of Home Box Office, Inc.



EVERLAST
★
HERITAGE

www.everlast.com



©/™ 2004 Jack Dempsey, Rocky Marciano, Floyd Patterson, Joe Louis, Ray Robinson Properties & Licensing by CMG Worldwide, www.CMGWorldwide.com

The RING

CONTENTS

Vol. II, 2004

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

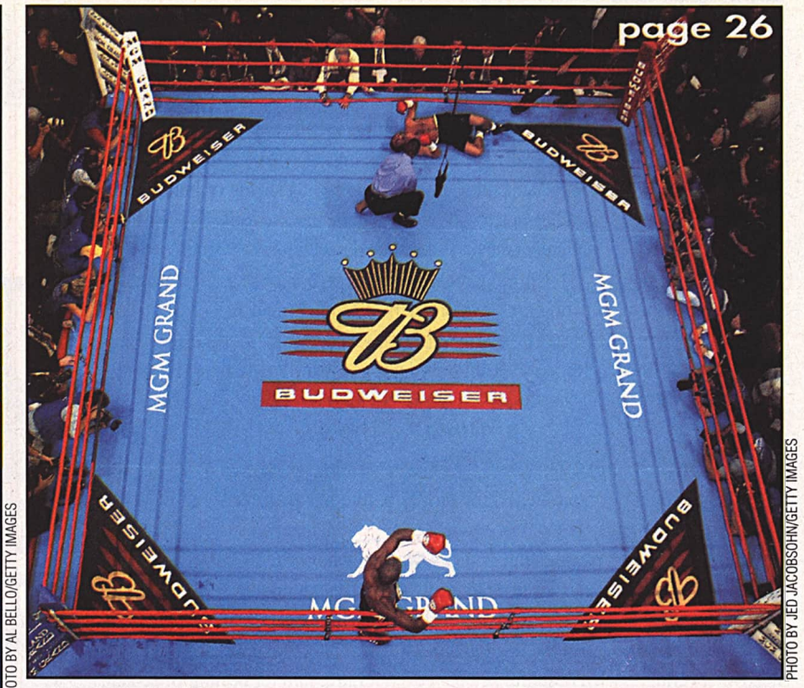


PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

FEATURES

26 BERNARD HOPKINS: A LEGEND IN OUR MIDST
The Middleweight Champ Dismantles De La Hoya With Subtle Brilliance
By Nigel Collins

36 U.S. TEAM WARDS OFF DISASTER IN ATHENS
An In-Depth Review Of The 2004 Olympics
By Robert Cassidy

42 WHO IS ERIK MORALES, THE MAN?
Looking Below The Surface On The Eve Of Barrera Rubber Match
By William Dettloff

48 CAN VARGAS MAKE ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP RUN?
He's Rested, Rehabbed, And Ready To Roll
By Eric Raskin

54 MOSLEY'S LAST CHANCE
Can A New Trainer Bring Out The Old Sugar Shane?
By Ivan Goldman

60 THE RING UPDATE: PETE RANZANY
"I Never Fought For Money; I Fought To Become Champion"
By Robert Mladinich

83 THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED
A Special 30th Anniversary Magazine-Within-The-Magazine

Cover:
Bernard Hopkins by Will Hart/HBO

Cover Design:
Walt Schmidt

Ringside Reports And Analyses

72 FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS

Ratings

13 RATINGS ANAYLSIS

14 THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS AND RECORDS

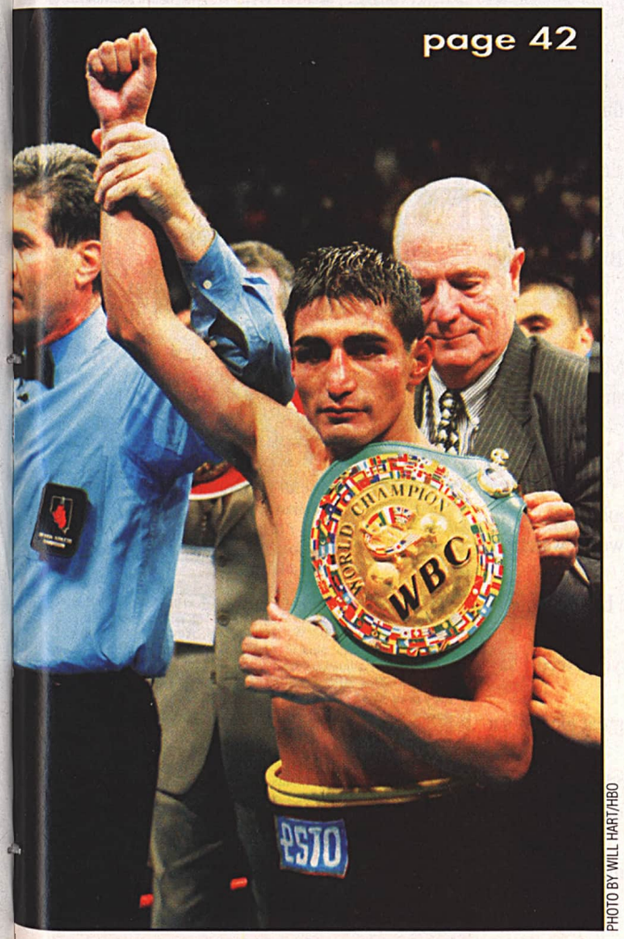


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

DEPARTMENTS

6 RINGSIDE, by Nigel Collins

8 ROUND ONE

16 RYAN OUT LOUD, *by Jeff Ryan*

18 DIGGING DEEP, *by Ivan Goldman*

20 BEING THERE: King's Boxing Gym, *by Robert Mladinich*

22 CAMERA CLICKS

24 NEW FACES: Heavyweight Eddie Chambers, *by Joe Santoliquito*

70 WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

78 THE FIGHT DOCTOR, *by Margaret Goodman, M.D.*

80 COME OUT WRITING

82 LOOKING AHEAD, *by Eric Raskin*

RINGSIDE

While accuracy and fairness are the two pillars of journalism, I've never really bought into the importance of neutrality. Any journalist who claims they are impartial is either lying or brain dead. Yes, it's crucial not to allow your personal preferences to influence your judgment, but it's foolish to deny they exist.

I'm no exception to the rule, and thought it might be fun to share some of my own favorites with readers. I have limited the lists to fighters who have been active since I began following boxing. Therefore, many old-timers I greatly admire do not appear. Remember, these are not necessarily the "best" fighters I've ever seen, just my favorites. They are listed alphabetically.

RETIRED FAVORITES

Joe Brown: "Old Bones" was lightweight champ when I first became a fan. Spending a couple of hours with him shortly before his death was a moving experience I'll always treasure.

Bennie Briscoe: An uncompromising warrior who virtually never took a backward step. You had to have been around the Philly fight scene during the 1960s and '70s to fully understand why "Baaaad Bennie" is still held in such high esteem.

Emile Griffith: One of the few fighters I watched on TV as a kid and then had the privilege of covering. Such a beautiful person, I even forgave him for beating Briscoe.

Gypsy Joe Harris: A one-eyed wonder who did things in the ring I've never seen before or since—an improvisational genius.

Sonny Liston: The anti-hero mystique has never died.

Archie Moore: Loved his esoteric fighter-cum-philosopher personality as much as his masterful fighting style.

Ruben Olivares: The quintessential Mexican left hook artist. With his Beatles hairdo, golden grin, and devil-may-care attitude, "Rock-a-bye Ruben" was everything a Mexican fighter is supposed to be.

Aaron Pryor: Would have been a latter-day Henry Armstrong without the coke.

Matthew Saad Muhammad: Not even Arturo Gatti is as consistently exciting. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have covered practically all of his major fights.

Dick Tiger: A real-life hero who stood up for what he believed during Biafra's struggle for independence, even though it cost him everything he owned.

ACTIVE FAVORITES

Oscar De La Hoya: I respect his willingness to fight anybody and appreciate what he's done for the sport. And underneath the glamour and glitz beats the heart of an assassin.

Arturo Gatti: No explanation necessary.

Evander Holyfield: It will be Holyfield, not Tyson, Bowe, or Lewis, who will ultimately be remembered as the best heavyweight of his era.

Bernard Hopkins: Proof positive that old school is still the best school.

Floyd Mayweather: Today's best pure boxer, which makes him worth watching even when his hands are hurt or the opposition is hapless.

Erik Morales: Has he ever been in a bad fight? Dollar for dollar, the best bargain in boxing.

Kassim Ouma: Ugandan punching machine reminds me a bit of Pryor. Need I say more?

Manny Pacquiao: A deadly whirlwind who goes about his job with great glee. It's a beautiful thing.

James Toney: One of the game's great characters, and almost as good as he says he is. Watching "Lights Out" is like taking a time machine ride back to the days when boxing really was a Sweet Science.

Mike Tyson: Still riveting after all these years. Moreover, he gave me a ride in his $700,000 Ferrari F-50.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

The Ring®

ANOTHER FINE KAPPA PUBLICATION

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
Founder
1888-1972

STUART SAKS
Publisher

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... Nigel Collins
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Eric Raskin
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Joseph Santoliquito
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Walt Schmidt
ART DIRECTORS ..... Greg Stevens
Jim Malloy
Monica Fisher
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... Bethany Lawler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
IMAGING DIRECTOR ..... Michael Kilgore
ASSISTANT EDITORS ..... Dave Lenker
Brandi Mankiewicz
SENIOR WRITER ..... William Dettloff

PRESIDENT
Despina McNulty

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

SR. V.P. FINANCE/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Philip Ketonis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

RETAIL SERVICES DIRECTOR
Briana Coppola

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Dave Hagman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385
vbellissima@kappapublishing.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2085
Marion, OH 43306-8185
(815) 734-1212

The Ring (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 2, 2004, is published monthly, with additional issues in August and December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: The Ring, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $7.95 ($10.75 in Canada, £4.50 in U.K.). Subscription price $85.50 in the U.S., $114.90 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2004 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

your holiday GIFT to you!

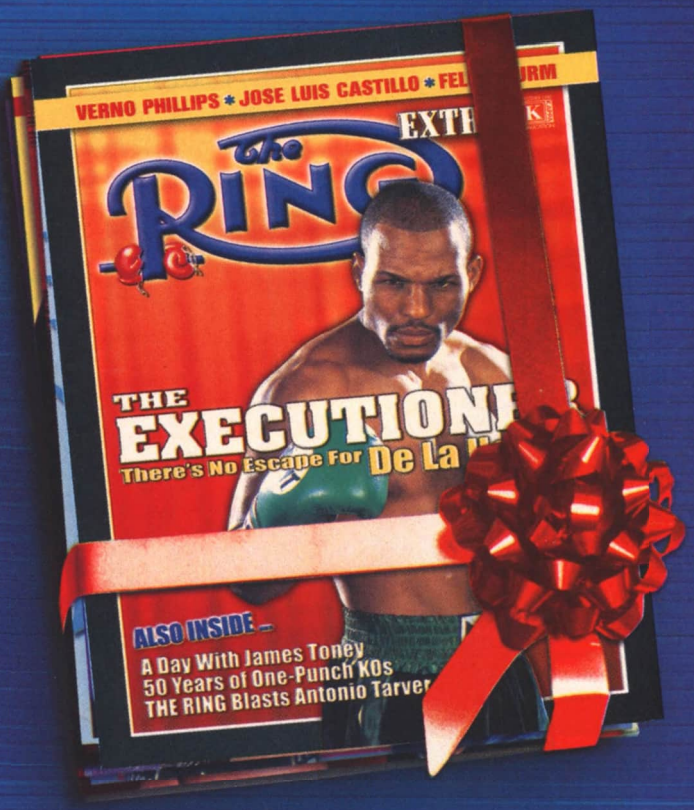
50% OFF NEWSSTAND PRICE

You're racking your brain trying to come up with the perfect holiday gifts for your friends and family. But you're probably forgetting about the most important person in your life—you!

It's time you started treating yourself as well as you do others. And we're here to help.

For a very limited time, we're offering subscriptions to the London Publishing family of boxing magazines at an unprecedented 50 percent off the newsstand price!

Of course, you can use this special offer to purchase gift subscriptions and we'll send out a gift card alerting the recipient of your generosity—but wouldn't that be selfishly depriving yourself of something you always wanted? Hey, it's your choice.



HURRY! THIS OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2004!

	NEWSSTAND	50% OFF	YOURS	GIFT
RING/EXTRA/DOUBLE (LRNG) 7 ISSUES	~~$42.75~~	$21.37	☐	☐
RING/EXTRA/DOUBLE (LRNG) 14 ISSUES	~~$85.50~~	$42.75	☐	☐
KO (LKOM) 3 ISSUES	~~$14.97~~	$7.48	☐	☐
BOXING 2005 (LBOX) 3 ISSUES	~~$17.97~~	$8.98	☐	☐
WORLD BOXING (LWBX) 3 ISSUES	~~$17.97~~	$8.98	☐	☐

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #_____

Expiration Date: ____/____ MO/YR

Signature:_____

THIS GIFT IS FOR _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

XCB04X

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

XCB04R

For Canada and all other countries: The Ring/Ring Extra/Ring Double: $26.97 for a 7-issue subscription ($38.87 airmail); $53.95 for a 14-issue subscription ($77.75 airmail). KO: $9.88 for a 3-issue subscription ($14.98 airmail). Boxing 2005: $11.38 for a 3-issue subscription ($16.48 airmail). World Boxing: $11.38 for a 3-issue subscription ($16.48 airmail). All orders outside the U.S., international money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2004.

Send to: London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2085, Marion, OH 43306-8185

6390/07-04

ROUND ONE

ROBERT QUIROGA, 1969-2004

When former IBF junior bantamweight titleholder Robert Quiroga retired in 1995, his many fans, especially those in Quiroga's hometown of San Antonio, Texas, were delighted to see the scrappy little crowd-pleaser call it quits before his punishing style caught up with him. Nobody wanted to see him suffer brain damage the way his most famous opponent, "Kid" Akeem Anifowoshe, did in their classic June 1991 slugfest.

Unfortunately, the Grim Reaper had other plans, and Quiroga's retirement ended in tragedy in the early hours of August 16 when he was stabbed to death in the driveway of a friend's home.

Quiroga: Meets tragic end at age 34

According to Rick Casas, who claims to have witnessed the slaying, he and Quiroga had been drinking beer in Casas' backyard with Richard Steven Merla, a.k.a. "Scarface." An argument between Merla and Quiroga erupted around 3 a.m., which ended with the ex-fighter lying in a pool of blood.

"It only took two seconds," Casas told the San Antonio *Express-News*. "I went to close the garage door and then Merla was on him. I told Scarface, 'What the hell is wrong with you?' And then he ran off while I got Robert to his feet."

Quiroga was taken to University Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The week following the stabbing, Merla, 38, was arrested and charged with Quiroga's murder. Merla had been in trouble before, and his rap sheet included a voluntary manslaughter conviction in 1983, as well as other felony and misdemeanor charges, ranging from domestic assault to cocaine possession. All told he had been incarcerated for more than four years before gaining his release in August '03.

Quiroga turned pro in March 1987, won the IBF 115-pound strap with a 12-round decision over Juan Polo-Perez in April '90, and made five successful defenses before losing the title to Julio Cesar Borboa in January '93. He retired following a decision loss to Ancee Gedeon in January '95 with an overall record of 20-2 (11). His victory over Anifowoshe was THE RING's Fight of the Year in '91.

After retiring from boxing, Quiroga worked as a youth counselor for a number of years, and then became an award-winning car salesman. At the time of his death, he was married to his second wife, Roxanne, with whom he had an 18-month-old daughter. He also had a daughter from a previous marriage.

Quiroga owned a $17,000 Harley-Davidson, and many who knew him believe his love of motorcycles may have led to his death. Both Merla and Casas were members of the Bandidos motorcycle club.

In January '04, a few days before he was inducted into the Latin-American Hall of Fame in Laredo, Texas, an upbeat Quiroga told the *Express-News* that, "There's definitely life after boxing."

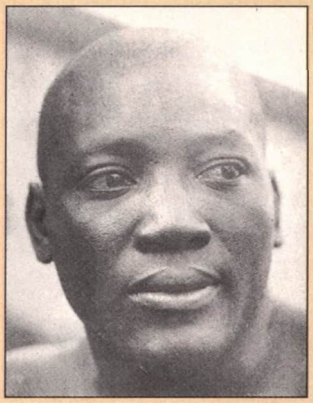
Sadly, that life was senselessly snuffed out at the age of 34.

—Nigel Collins

GETTING TO KNOW JACK

James Earl Jones, who portrayed Jack Johnson in the Broadway play and the film version of *The Great White Hope*, said of the first black heavyweight champion, "I don't see his life as a tragedy. The *scene* was a tragedy. *America* was a tragedy." With those three sentences, Jones summarized the message of the new Ken Burns documentary *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise And Fall Of Jack Johnson*, which will air on PBS in January 2005. Johnson's life and boxing career were the excuse for making the film, but the racism that ruled the United States a century ago is what imprints itself on your mind during and long after viewing the documentary.

Burns, along with Senators John McCain and Orrin Hatch, made the rounds in August seeking a presidential pardon for Johnson, who was convicted in 1913 and served time seven years later for the "crime" of traveling across state lines with a white woman. And whether it was his primary intent or not, Burns also drummed up publicity for his film along the way. That's a good thing—not because this was the most wildly entertaining documentary ever, but because Johnson's story, the atmosphere of the time, and the connection between the heavyweight title and American society in the first two decades of the 20th century are topics both boxing fans and non-boxing fans alike ought to be aware of.



Johnson: His story comes to PBS

Unforgivable Blackness (the title comes from a quote by civil rights leader W.E.B. DuBois) takes us from John L. Sullivan and his refusal to give a black man a shot at the heavyweight title, through Johnson's ascent, descent, and eventual fade from the scene. For those who haven't seen much footage of Johnson in the ring, there's plenty here, primarily from his most famous fights—against Tommy Burns, Stanley Ketchel, Jim Jeffries, and Jess Willard. If these film reels are new to you, you might be shocked to see how vital clinching was to Johnson's style. (Picture John Ruiz with a shaved head and darker skin.) But you also will be impressed with how dominant a fighter Johnson was. The Burns and Jeffries beatings are brutal, and the Ketchel kayo alarmingly quick and easy once Ketchel decided to deviate from the script and make a fight of it. Even against Willard, the old and out of shape Johnson was in complete control until he began to run out of gas in the 15th round.

But it's the reaction of the white public to Johnson that sticks with you far more than the boxing footage. That "The Galveston Giant" reigned for 6½ years with so much of white America trying to get him knocked out and/or imprisoned is, in its own way, just as impressive as Joe Louis reigning uninterrupted for 11 years. *Unforgivable Blackness* may leave a lot of viewers feeling ashamed of the attitudes of the time, but it should also have the reverse effect—to make us feel proud of the strides we've made over the last 90-odd years. A pardon for Johnson, though far too late to matter to the legendary ex-champ, would be a reasonable way to show that the progress is continuing.

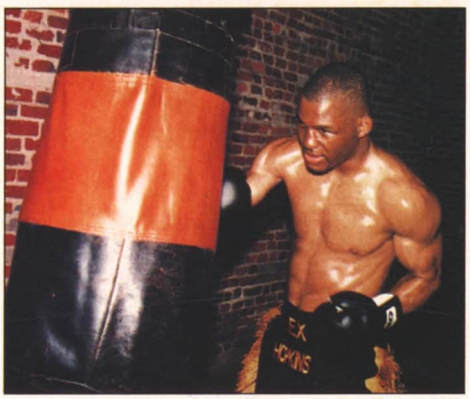
—Eric Raskin

THE STORY OF THE HURRICANE

There isn't much that Bernard Hopkins runs from. But the world middleweight champion couldn't hightail it out of Miami, Florida, fast enough in early-September. Hopkins, in South Beach preparing for his September 18 showdown with Oscar De La Hoya, quickly relocated his camp to Las Vegas, getting out of the way of Hurricane Frances, a Category 2 storm.

"The Gym where I train is boarding up their windows and South Beach is emptying out," Hopkins said at the time. "I'm used to ducking big punches, and I plan on ducking Frances, who I heard is carrying a powerful punch. Nothing will stop me from fighting Oscar De La Hoya. I haven't been knocked out in the ring yet, I won't be knocked out on September 18, and Hurricane Frances can't do it either."

Frances' effect on boxing extended beyond just Hopkins. The hurricane also took out the last 2004 installment of ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights*. The September 3 main event was scheduled to feature IBF flyweight titlist Irene Pacheco against undefeated mandatory challenger Vic Darchinyan at The Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Florida, but the show had to be cancelled. *FNF* was left to fill the broadcast time with studio chit-chat and replays of old fights.



Hopkins had to move his training camp

Frances, with sustained winds of 105 miles per hour, was estimated to have caused between $2-billion and $4-billion in damage. Millions of Floridians were left homeless and without power, and Frances was also the cause of a reported 14 deaths.

—Joe Santoliquito

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
8-10-04	Omar Sheika W 10 James Butler	ESPN2	sm	C+	B-	D
Hey Omar, just because you're boxing now doesn't mean you can't throw an occasional looping overhand right						
8-13-04	Eddie Sanchez W 12 J.C. Candelo	ESPN2	jm	B-	D+	B-
Is it our imagination or did Candelo get really bad overnight?						
8-13-04	Manuel Gomez KO 3 Ian MacKillop	Telef	jm	B-	B-	B-
Only the best prospects will beat Gomez, who's still a very dangerous guy						
8-13-04	Yamplier Azcuy KO 1 Juan Carlos Gomez	Telef	h	B-	C+	B
Upset! This is what happens when you go from being an active cruiserweight to a once-a-year heavyweight						
8-19-04	Armando Velardez KO 8 Matt Vanda	Show	jm	C	B+	C
Oh—so that's what you have to do to get a win over Vanda in Minnesota						
8-19-04	Bernard Dunne W 10 Adrian Valdez	Show	f	C+	C+	C+
Southpaw counterpunchers with hard chins should be outlawed						
8-20-04	Oscar Larios W 10 Angel Chacon	Telef	f	B	D+	C+
Larios has one of the game's better left hooks to the ribs; it's a crusher						
8-24-04	Delvin Rodriguez W 6 Allen Conyers	ESPN2	w	C-	B+	B-
You just don't see enough guys flying out of the ring head-first anymore; damn that's fun						
8-24-04	Jose Nieves KO 8 Alberto Ontiveros	ESPN2	b	C+	B+	C+
Good win for fast-rising Nieves, who caught Ontiveros at the right time						
8-27-04	Jose Spearman W 8 Rasheem Brown	ESPN2	sm	C	C+	C-
What a shock: Virgil Hill is dull behind the microphone, too						
8-27-04	Daniel Edouard KO 4 Willie Gibbs	ESPN2	m	C+	A+	A
Edouard prevails in wonderful see-saw slugfest; excellent matchmaking here						
9-2-04	Francisco Diaz W 8 Guadelupe Martinez	Show	m	C-	A	B-
Diaz' strength, power, and early knockdown too much for Martinez						
9-2-04	Ian Gardner W 10 Kuvanych Toygonbayev	Show	m	C+	B+	C-
Note to Toygonbayev's managers: Your guy can't beat southpaws—stop matching him against them						
9-3-04	Fernando Montiel KO 7 Reynaldo Hurtado	Telef	b	B-	C+	B-
Another good win for Montiel—Hurtado no pushover; how about a rematch with Mark Johnson?						
9-4-04	**Cory Spinks W 12 Miguel Angel Gonzalez**	**Show**	**World w**	**A**	**D+**	**C+**
Finally Gonzalez doesn't freeze in a big fight, but it's too late; solid win for Spinks						
9-4-04	Lamon Brewster W 12 Kali Meehan	Show	h	B+	C	C+
Anyone else sick to death of talented, hard-punching heavyweights who hate to throw punches? Brewster should be ashamed						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World/Alphabet title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox Sports Net; Uni—Univision; Telef—Telefutura; Telem—Telemundo; HBO L—HBO Latino

PAC-MAN GETS PLAYED

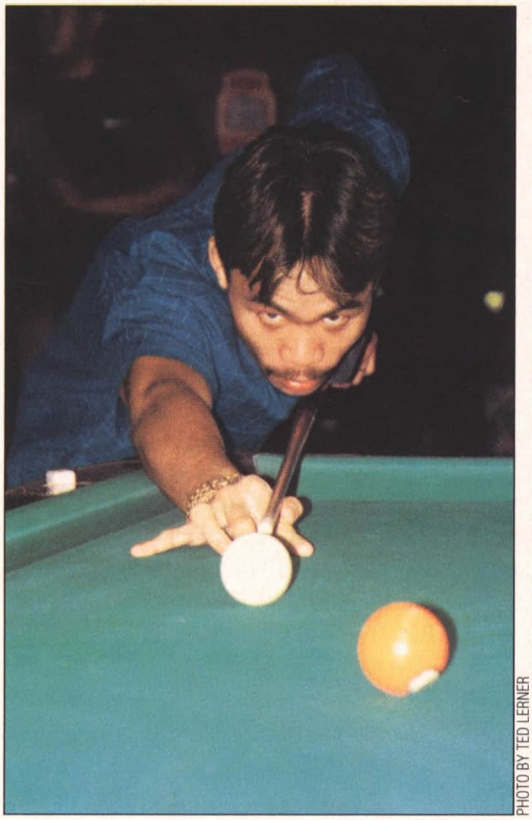


PHOTO BY TED LERNER

Pacquiao can't seem to line up a big fight

After bludgeoning Marco Antonio Barrera in November 2003 to win the featherweight championship, 2004 was supposed to be Manny Pacquiao's big year. The Filipino sensation looked all set for a rocketship ride to boxing's elite universe. But 2004 is turning out to be a big disappointment for the all-action Pac-Man.

While his sizzling draw with Juan Manuel Marquez in May did nothing to diminish his stature, Pacquiao has suddenly been left out in the cold without a big-name opponent for the remainder of the year.

In the immediate aftermath of the Marquez fight, it seemed as if Pacquiao had plenty of attractive options. If Marquez didn't want a rematch right away, a second fight with Barrera would be just as good. Then the behind-the-scenes machinations began. Promoter Bob Arum dangled a possible bout with Erik Morales in front of Team Pacquiao, and when they took the bait, Arum switched gears and made Barrera-Morales III.

Filipino fans called the Mexican trio (Barrera, Morales, and Marquez) chickens and cried double-cross. But it appears that it was a simple case of the business of boxing at work. And not just for Arum, who promotes Morales and Marquez; it was also good business for Barrera. From his standpoint, going after Morales before tackling Pacquiao a second time makes sense. Having split a pair of bouts with Morales, Barrera may feel more confident that he can beat Morales than Pacquiao. And if he does beat Morales in the rubber match, he's back on top and can try to avenge the Pacquiao defeat next year. If Barrera fought and lost to Pac-Man, a third fight with Morales may never have happened.

With Barrera-Morales III scheduled for November 27, Pacquiao was suddenly searching for alternatives. As we went to press, his business manager, Rod Nazario, was trying to make a match with Scott Harrison, but nothing was set.

"Manny's not worried," said Nazario. "He says he's willing to wait until early next year. But I want him to fight so he doesn't get rusty. We'll take anybody right now."

Concerned about the long layoff, Nazario brought Pacquiao to Los Angeles to train with Freddie Roach in early-September, hoping for a possible date in late-November or early-December somewhere in the United States.

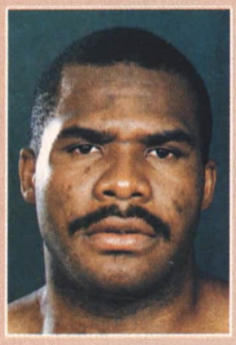
"I'm sure the winner of Morales-Barrera will definitely fight Manny early next year," Nazario said.

Which means that 2005 could very well be Manny Pacquiao's big year.

Maybe.

—Ted Lerner

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Ibeabuchi: "The President's" parole vetoed

For those of you hoping that **Ike Ibeabuchi** was going to come back and save the heavyweight division, you'll have to wait until at least 2007. In late-August, the 31-year-old Ibeabuchi was denied parole by the Nevada Board of Parole Commissioners, and will continue serving time for his attempted sexual assault conviction ... Speaking of alleged sexual assaults, former welterweight champion **Ricardo Mayorga** was detained for three hours in early-September, but ultimately released, after being accused of raping a 20-year-old woman in Managua, Nicaragua. Mayorga, who claims he was "set up," was allowed to leave his native Nicaragua and come to America to prepare for his scheduled October fight with **Felix Trinidad** ... Continuing on the same grim topic, former flyweight titlist **Eric Morel** was ordered in late-August to stand trial for the alleged sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl. Morel has entered a not guilty plea ... At least **Paul Spadafora** hasn't been charged with sexual assault. But "The Pittsburgh Kid" is still finding plenty of trouble with the law, and was charged in early-September with public drunkenness. According to Spadafora's attorney, the fighter had been sober for many months, but drank again after learning recently that he needed elbow surgery that would keep him out of action until at least next March. "Spaddy" was placed under house arrest and ordered to take regular drug and alcohol tests ... In the ongoing saga of heavyweight contender **Joe Mesi**, his attorney, **Stuart Campbell**, finally admitted to the Nevada Athletic Commission in mid-August that his client suffered bleeding on the brain following his fight with **Vassiliy Jirov**, but said the "small subdural hematoma" had dissipated and believed Mesi should be cleared to fight ... It became official in late-August: The WBC reached an undisclosed settlement with ex-fighter **Graciano Rocchigiani**, and will not have to file for bankruptcy ... He probably won't be able to collect, but call it at least a moral victory for **Bernard Hopkins**, who was awarded $1.79-million in damages in mid-August in a breach of contract suit against former promoter America Presents. The promotional company went under in 2002, leaving numerous unpaid bills ... Undefeated Indiana heavyweight **Charles "Duke" Tanner** was arrested in a sting operation in early-September after attempting to purchase 15 kilograms of cocaine ... **Norman Stone**, the excitable manager of heavyweight **John Ruiz**, was charged with making death threats in late-August. **William Tauro** alleged that Stone owed him more than $20,000 in unpaid rent, and when he tried to collect, Stone threatened his life. Stone has pleaded not guilty ... After meeting to discuss the highly controversial **Courtney Burton-Emanuel Augustus** fight, Michigan officials announced in early-September that the decision would not be overturned, but that **Robert Paganelli** and **Ed Mosley**, the two judges who scored for Burton, would no longer be allowed to judge fights in the state. The heavily criticized referee of the fight, **Dan Kelley**, retired before the hearing was complete ... Another referee recently went in the other direction. **Richard Steele**, 60, announced in mid-August that he was ending his retirement from officiating, returning to the ring after 3½ years of trying his hand at matchmaking and promoting ... Argentinean welterweight **Lino Perez** died of an apparent suicide in late-August, reportedly having hung himself after struggling through tough times with his wife and one-year-old daughter. Perez, 30, had a pro record of 12-3-2 (6).

Steele: A second go as a third man

THE PUNCHLINES

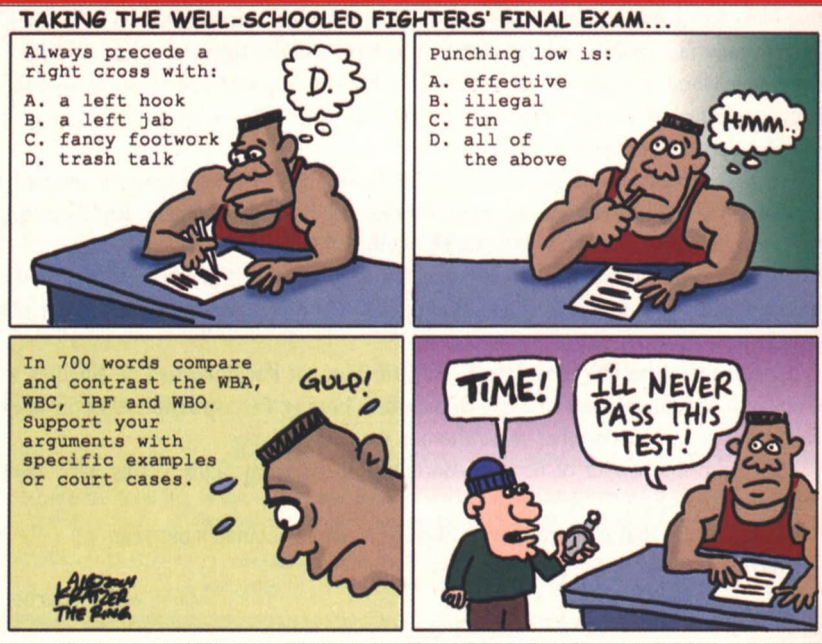
"I'm doing great with my money. I have a Costco card. I also shop at Sam's Club. You have to bag it, but it's worth the savings."

—Bernard Hopkins, notoriously frugal middleweight champ

"James Toney, the KFC champion."

—Sam Simon, manager of heavyweight Lamon Brewster, revealing which alphabet organization he believes Toney is king of

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Middleweight
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Junior Welterweight
3. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Light Heavyweight
4. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
5. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   Junior Middleweight
6. **ERIK MORALES**
   Junior Lightweight
7. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Featherweight
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Featherweight
9. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
10. **JAMES TONEY**
    Heavyweight

(For period ended September 20, 2004)

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Following his lackluster showing against unranked Kali Meehan, Lamon Brewster (eighth last issue) slips to number 10. This allows Jameel McCline to climb from ninth to eighth and Danny Williams, who holds a first-round knockout win over Meehan, to ascend from 10th to ninth.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Paul Briggs enters the rankings at number eight after decisioning Stipe Drews, who was rated eighth last issue. Drews departs.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Lots of movement here. Daniel Santos (sixth last issue) scored an inconclusive but still significant technical win over rising welterweight Antonio Margarito, enabling the Puerto Rican to advance to fourth, pushing Fernando Vargas (fourth last issue) and Javier Castillejo (fifth last issue) down one slot each. Rodney Jones (eighth last issue) switches places with inactive Travis Simms (seventh last issue) following Jones' win over Michael Lerma. And J.C. Candelo (ninth last issue) exits following his upset loss to Eddie Sanchez, allowing Bronco McKart to rise from 10th to ninth while making room for hard punching Kofi Jantuah at number 10.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes. Despite his technical loss to Santos at 154 pounds, Margarito remains the number-one contender here, having announced his intention to return to 147.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: On the heels of his sensational win over Kelson Pinto, Miguel Cotto (eighth last issue) leaps to number five, passing Oktay Urkal (down from seventh to eighth), DeMarcus Corley (down from sixth to seventh), and Ricky Hatton (down from fourth to sixth). But Cotto remains below Floyd Mayweather, who moves up a spot, from fifth to fourth, in the reshuffling.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Orlando Salido (seventh last issue) exits after losing to Juan Manuel Marquez at featherweight. Everyone ranked below Salido last issue consequently moves up one position, and South Africa's Mzonke Fana enters at number 10.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Muhammad Rachman (ninth last issue) advances to number three following his split decision win in his native Indonesia over Daniel Reyes, who dips from third to fourth. Everyone below Reyes drops one spot to accommodate, except for Isaac Bustos, who holds steady at number 10.

POUND-FOR-POUND: While Bernard Hopkins strengthened his claim to the top spot by stopping Oscar De La Hoya, "The Golden Boy" exits the top 10 for the first time since initially crashing the party in the September '95 issue. With De La Hoya (ninth last issue) departing, that enables Kostya Tszyu to rise from 10th to ninth and James Toney to return at number 10. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended September 20, 2004

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Miguel Cotto zoomed from eighth to fifth at junior welter after crushing Kelson Pinto

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled in one of two ways: by unifying all three alphabet titles in a division; or by winning a box-off between THE RING'S number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

Ratings By The Editors

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

Champ: VITALI KLITSCHKO
Ukraine 34-2 (33)

1. **CHRIS BYRD**
Flint, MI 37-2-1 (20)
2. **JOHN RUIZ**
Methuen, MA 40-5-1 (28)
3. **JAMES TONEY**
Ann Arbor, MI 67-4-2 (43)
4. **HASIM RAHMAN**
Baltimore, MD 39-5-1 (32)
5. **MONTE BARRETT**
Queens, NY 30-3 (6)
6. **ANDREW GOLOTA**
Poland 38-4-1 (31)
7. **FRES OQUENDO**
Puerto Rico 24-3 (15)
8. **JAMEEL McCLINE**
Port Jefferson, NY 31-3-1 (19)
9. **DANNY WILLIAMS**
England 32-3 (27)
10. **LAMON BREWSTER**
Los Angeles, CA 31-2 (27)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: WINKY WRIGHT
St. Petersburg, FL 47-3 (25)

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
Pomona, CA 39-3 (35)
2. **KASSIM OUMA**
W. Palm Beach, FL 19-1-1 (13)
3. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
Aurora, CO 38-8-1 (20)
4. **DANIEL SANTOS**
Puerto Rico 29-2-1 (20)
5. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
Oxnard, CA 24-2 (22)
6. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
Spain 58-5 (40)
7. **RODNEY JONES**
Lafayette, LA 34-3 (22)
8. **TRAVIS SIMMS**
Norwalk, CT 23-0 (18)
9. **BRONCO McKART**
Monroe, MI 47-5 (31)
10. **KOFI JANTUAH**
Las Vegas, NV 28-1 (18)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: MANNY PACQUIAO
Philippines 38-2-2 (29)

1. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 43-2-1 (33)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 58-4 (41)
3. **SCOTT HARRISON**
Scotland 22-2-1 (12)
4. **INJIN CHI**
South Korea 29-2-1 (18)
5. **MANUEL MEDINA**
Mexico 63-14 (29)
6. **ROCKY JUAREZ**
Houston, TX 21-0 (14)
7. **ZAHIR RAHEEM**
Tulsa, OK 25-1 (15)
8. **DERRICK GAINER**
Pensacola, FL 39-6-1 (24)
9. **MICHAEL BRODIE**
England 35-2-1 (23)
10. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia 34-0 (19)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **OSCAR LARIOS**
Mexico 53-3-1 (35)
2. **ISRAEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico 36-3 (27)
3. **MAHYAR MONSHIPOUR**
France 25-2-2 (16)
4. **JOAN GUZMAN**
Dominican Republic 21-0 (17)
5. **JOSE LUIS VALBUENA**
Venezuela 24-3-1 (14)
6. **SALIM MEDJKOUNE**
France 43-5-1 (21)
7. **YODDAMRONG SITHYODTHONG**
Thailand 37-1-1 (19)
8. **JORGE LACIERVA**
Mexico 26-5-4 (18)
9. **ART SIMONYAN**
Glendale, CA 14-0-1 (7)
10. **SERGIO MANUEL MEDINA**
Argentina 18-0 (10)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 32-3 (29)
2. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM**
Thailand 45-1-2 (31)
3. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark 55-2 (26)
4. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN**
Thailand 57-8 (39)
5. **GENARO GARCIA**
Mexico 31-4 (19)
6. **CRUZ CARBAJAL**
Mexico 24-12-1 (20)
7. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 23-4-3 (14)
8. **SILENCE MABUZA**
South Africa 16-0 (15)
9. **RICARDO VARGAS**
Mexico 36-10-3 (11)
10. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico 25-4 (23)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **WAYNE BRAITHWAITE**
   Guyana 21-0 (17)
2. **JEAN-MARC MORMECK**
   France 30-2 (21)
3. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England 44-12-2 (29)
4. **O'NEIL BELL**
   Atlanta, GA 23-1-1 (22)
5. **KELVIN DAVIS**
   Reno, NV 21-2-1 (16)
6. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England 33-6 (25)
7. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM**
   Philadelphia, PA 15-0 (8)
8. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND 49-5 (23)
9. **DALE BROWN**
   Canada 31-3-1 (20)
10. **PIETRO AURINO**
    Italy 29-2 (13)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: ANTONIO TARVER
Orlando, FL 22-2 (18)

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL 49-2 (38)
2. **ZSOLT ERDEI**
   Hungary 21-0 (13)
3. **GLENCOFFE JOHNSON**
   Miami, FL 40-9-2 (27)
4. **JULIO GONZALEZ**
   Huntington Beach, CA 36-2 (22)
5. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany 48-1 (38)
6. **CLINTON WOODS**
   England 35-3-1 (21)
7. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   Franco 46-2 (30)
8. **PAUL BRIGGS**
   Australia 23-1 (17)
9. **THOMAS ULRICH**
   Germany 27-1 (19)
10. **RICO HOYE**
    Detroit, MI 18-0 (14)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales 37-0 (30)
2. **MANNY SIACA**
   Puerto Rico 18-4 (16)
3. **ANTHONY MUNDINE**
   Australia 21-2 (16)
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA 30-5-1 (26)
5. **DANNY GREEN**
   Australia 18-1 (17)
6. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA 40-9 (28)
7. **MADS LARSEN**
   Denmark 45-2 (37)
8. **ROBIN REID**
   England 37-4-1 (27)
9. **CRISTIAN SANAVIA**
   Italy 33-1 (12)
10. **SYD VANDERPOOL**
    Canada 35-2 (23)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA 45-2-1 (32)

1. **HOWARD EASTMAN**
   England 39-1 (35)
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Los Angeles, CA 37-4 (29)
3. **FELIX STURM**
   Germany 21-1 (9)
4. **ROBERT ALLEN**
   Atlanta, GA 36-5 (27)
5. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. 34-3-1 (25)
6. **JERMAIN TAYLOR**
   Little Rock, AR 21-0 (16)
7. **MASELINO MASOE**
   New Zealand 26-2 (25)
8. **KINGSLEY IKEKE**
   Canada 20-1 (10)
9. **SAM SOLIMAN**
   Australia 27-7 (9)
10. **RAYMOND JOVAL**
    Netherlands 32-3 (14)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: CORY SPINKS
St. Louis, MO 34-2 (11)

1. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
   Mexico 30-4 (21)
2. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 35-2 (26)
3. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 31-2 (22)
4. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark 34-0 (26)
5. **MICHELE PICCIRILLO**
   Italy 43-2 (27)
6. **MANUEL GOMEZ**
   Mexico 26-10-1 (19)
7. **KERMIT CINTRON**
   Reading, PA 24-0 (22)
8. **JAWAID KHALIQ**
   England 23-1-1 (13)
9. **CARLOS BALDOMIR**
   Argentina 40-9-6 (12)
10. **TEDDY REID**
    Adelphi, MD 22-6-1 (16)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 30-1 (24)

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 55-3 (31)
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 38-6 (29)
3. **VIVIAN HARRIS**
   Brooklyn, NY 24-1-1 (16)
4. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 32-0 (21)
5. **MIGUEL COTTO**
   Puerto Rico 21-0 (17)
6. **RICKY HATTON**
   England 36-0 (26)
7. **DeMARCUS CORLEY**
   Washington, D.C. 28-3-1 (16)
8. **OKTAY URKAL**
   Germany 34-2 (10)
9. **LOVEMORE NDOU**
   Australia 39-7-1 (25)
10. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
    San Antonio, TX 47-6-2 (19)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: JOSE LUIS CASTILLO
Mexico 50-6-1 (45)

1. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA 39-2 (32)
2. **JUAN LAZCANO**
   El Paso, TX 33-3-1 (25)
3. **JULIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 30-2 (22)
4. **JUAN DIAZ**
   Houston, TX 25-0 (12)
5. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil 35-1 (31)
6. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 35-3-1 (17)
7. **JAVIER JAUREGUI**
   Mexico 48-11-2 (34)
8. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan 37-1 (23)
9. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France 56-3-2 (41)
10. **LAKVA SIM**
    Mongolia 19-4-1 (16)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico 47-1 (34)
2. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL 31-2 (19)
3. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 40-3 (28)
4. **YODSANAN NANTHACHAI**
   Thailand 43-2-1 (35)
5. **CARLOS HERNANDEZ**
   Bellflower, CA 40-4-1 (24)
6. **JORGE BARRIOS**
   Argentina 41-2-1 (29)
7. **CASSIUS BALOYI**
   South Africa 29-1 (16)
8. **MIKE ANCHONDO**
   La Puente, CA 25-0 (18)
9. **ROBBIE PEDEN**
   Australia 24-2 (13)
10. **MZONKE FANA**
    South Africa 22-2 (8)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **KATSUSHIGE KAWASHIMA**
   Japan 27-3 (18)
2. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 44-3 (28)
3. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
   Venezuela 25-0 (24)
4. **LUIS PEREZ**
   Nicaragua 22-1 (14)
5. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA**
   North Korea 30-3-1 (8)
6. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 29-1-1 (23)
7. **MARTIN CASTILLO**
   Mexico 26-1 (16)
8. **FELIX MACHADO**
   Venezuela 22-5-1 (11)
9. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 31-4-1 (21)
10. **JOSE NAVARRO**
    Los Angeles, CA 20-0 (8)

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
   Thailand 52-2 (28)
2. **LORENZO PARRA**
   Venezuela 24-0 (17)
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 29-0 (22)
4. **MZUKISI SIKALI**
   South Africa 29-4-2 (17)
5. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina 16-0-2 (10)
6. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
   Australia 21-0 (16)
7. **BRAHIM ASLOUM**
   France 16-0 (6)
8. **HUSSEIN HUSSEIN**
   Australia 25-1 (19)
9. **LUIS MALDONADO**
   Mexico 29-0 (21)
10. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA**
    Japan 22-2-1 (9)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: ROSENDO ALVAREZ
Nicaragua 32-2-2 (21)

1. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico 37-3-1 (27)
2. **VICTOR BURGOS**
   Mexico 37-13-3 (22)
3. **BEIBIS MENDOZA**
   Colombia 29-2 (23)
4. **NELSON DIEPPA**
   Puerto Rico 21-1-2 (12)
5. **PICHIT SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 30-2 (14)
6. **FAHLAN SAKKREERIN**
   Thailand 50-4-2 (20)
7. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Colombia 35-3 (21)
8. **ULISES SOLIS**
   Mexico 14-1 (10)
9. **ROBERTO VASQUEZ**
   Panama 16-1 (14)
10. **HUGO CAZARES**
    Mexico 18-3-1 (14)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **YUTAKA NIDA**
   Japan 16-1-3 (8)
2. **EAGLE KYOWA**
   Japan 13-0 (5)
3. **MUHAMMAD RACHMAN**
   Indonesia 49-7-3 (21)
4. **DANIEL REYES**
   Colombia 34-2-1 (29)
5. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 32-2-1 (20)
6. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela 20-3-1 (10)
7. **IVAN CALDERON**
   Puerto Rico 20-0 (4)
8. **JUAN LANDAETA**
   Venezuela 15-2-1 (13)
9. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 50-2-3 (17)
10. **ISAAC BUSTOS**
    Mexico 22-6-3 (11)

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

THE THINK TANK IS EMPTY

The movers, shakers, and decision-makers entrusted with the care and feeding of the great sport of boxing sometimes appear to be trying to sabotage it. The frightening reality, however, is that they're not. They actually believe that all of those idiotic ideas they generate make perfect sense. Just picture a bunch of fighters, managers, promoters, writers, and television executives standing around in a room and brainstorming like those two guys in the Guinness beer commercial.

"Hey, how about a Riddick Bowe comeback after eight years of inactivity?"

"A Bowe comeback after eight years of inactivity? Brilliant!"

"And maybe George Foreman can fight again at age 55."

"A rusty, fat funny man? Fighting at 55? Brilliant!"

Yes, those are actually two hare-brained schemes, as Alice Kramden would call them, that the fight game has come up with of late. Unfortunately, they're not the only ones. Following the USA's poor showing in the Olympic boxing competition in Athens, nitwits are suggesting sending pros to compete in Beijing in 2008. There is also talk of a third Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield bout and a sixth *Rocky* movie. And Graciano Rocchigiani got the bright idea to let the WBC make peace with him and simultaneously buy its way out of certain extinction. Let's take these potential disasters one at a time.

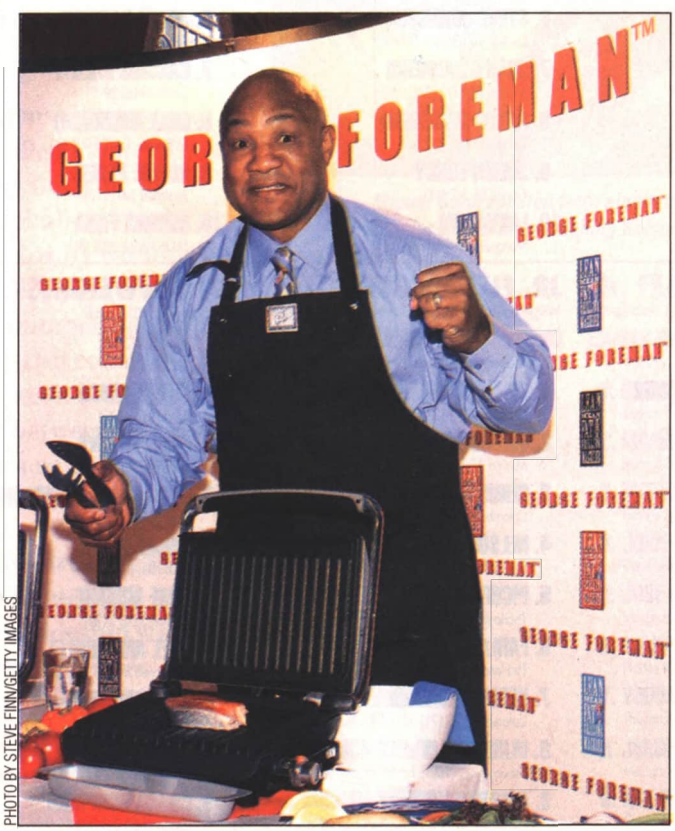


PHOTO BY STEVE FINN/GETTY IMAGES

Forget the comeback and stay in the kitchen, George

1) The comebacks: "Big Daddy" and "Big George" are making big mistakes and will likely make big fools of themselves. (Though, admittedly, that's nothing new.) One would think that after Bowe was beaten up twice by the ordinary Andrew Golota, humbled by his attempt to play Gomer Pyle, and locked up for 17 months after kidnapping his estranged wife and kids, the former heavyweight ruler would be anxious to keep a low profile. Then again, he wasn't nicknamed "Riddick-ulous" for nothing.

Listen to the 37-year-old Bowe speak and tell me that you're not concerned. Wasn't he once the greatest heavyweight motormouth since Ali? Big Daddy, who wants to fight 15 times within the next year, should take a look at Floyd Patterson and Willie Pep, two guys who seemed perfectly healthy for decades after they quit, then suddenly had trouble recognizing their close friends or remembering simple facts. One never knows which fight is one too many, but you can be sure anything from this point on is dangerous.

In the case of Foreman, how much money does the guy need? He pockets more from his line of barbecue grills than he did for two reigns as heavyweight champion. Foreman's name is plastered all over tennis' U.S. Open

every year: It's on the fences at courtside, over the portals in the stadium, even on the napkins. And the grills aren't even mentioned. The ads blare only, *"George Foreman."*

Think of that nasty/aloof/strange guy who kayoed Ken Norton and saw visions after battling the San Juan heat and Jimmy Young. Could we have ever imagined that Foreman would become so accepted by the mainstream one day that his name would be splashed all over another sport's premier event? Big George should appreciate how far he's come and how he's managed to reinvent himself a half-dozen times, fire up some burgers, kick back, and enjoy life before the quality of it is ruined forever.

2) Pros in the Olympics: A few writers have come up with this gem because, hey, it's the United States' God-given right to win a Brinks truck full of gold medals in every sport. And if it can't do better than Andre Ward's lone gold and Andre Dirrell's bronze, well, then it's time to call the multimillionaires into action. So lace 'em up, Antonio Tarver, Floyd Mayweather, Winky Wright, and Cory Spinks. The Great Haul of China is only four years away!

The problem with USA Boxing is a shortage of funds, not enough participation in international competition in non-Olympic years, a lack of true *instructors* in the coaching ranks, and fighters who don't face a wide variety of styles in their all-too-short amateur careers. Moreover, as recently as the 1976 dream team of Sugar Ray Leonard and the Spinks Brothers, American amateurs considered the Olympics a crowning achievement. (Leonard didn't even plan to turn pro; he was forced to after his father became ill.) In recent years, however, the Olympics have become viewed as just a steppingstone to the real goal: cashing hefty pro paychecks.

What makes anyone think that pros with HBO contracts and customized limos would want to put their pro careers on hold, risk injury, and change their style from slammer to slapper just for the chance at a medal? And if Roy Jones or James Toney *did* beat some unknown southpaw from Azerbaijan, would that really make us all feel better? No. So let's keep sending the amateurs, but teach them fundamentals and remind them that a lot more ham-and-eggers have won WBA title belts than Olympic gold medals.

3) Tyson-Holyfield III: Everyone knows the main reason this showdown should never take place: "Iron-deficiency Mike" and "The Surreal Deal" could inflict enough punishment on their already battered brains to assure they'll be parking their wheelchairs alongside Bowe and Foreman in the same assisted-living facility one day. That's obvious. So let's instead focus on how the bout could further hurt the sport's credibility from an X's and O's standpoint.

The likely outcome is that Tyson, who has suffered less physical deterioration, flattens Holyfield within five rounds. In other words, the better fighter doesn't win. That's fine if it happens when both are near the top of their games, but it means absolutely nothing if Tyson wins merely because he has been far more inactive during the *seven-plus years* between fights II and III. Hey, wait long enough and any result can be reversed. In five years, perhaps John Ruiz beats Jones or Felix Trinidad blows out Bernard Hopkins. That's not athletic competition; it's survival of the least shot.

4) *Rocky VI:* The tagline on the movie posters and trailers, we presume, will be, "Yo, mas." And to think that this is an Academy Award winner for Best Picture that is being watered down worse than the base paths at Wrigley Field. Shameful.

Somebody has to show Sylvester Stallone his birth certificate, point

PHOTO BY GIULIO MARCOCCHI/GETTY IMAGES

Do I really want to make* Rocky VI*?

out the date of July 6, 1946, and tell him that if the script so much as calls for him to slap aftershave on his face, let alone take hellacious uppercuts in the ring (as he did in the first four installments) or bare-knuckle haymakers in the street (ala *Rocky V*), his flick is going to be so lacking in credibility that it will make the rest of the reality-suspending *Rocky* franchise look like a PBS documentary by comparison.

And who's going to believe that a former heavyweight champion in his 50s would ever want to make a comeback anyway?

5) Rocchigiani agrees to a settlement: There was the WBC, an organization that has a permanent place alongside low blows, intentional headbutts, and overflowing spit buckets on the list of things the Sweet Science wishes had never been invented, helpless and begging for mercy. Rocchigiani had won a $31-million judgment against the ruling body for its unfair taking away of his light heavyweight title, and the despised alphabet clowns were about to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and go out of business. But just when the steel-toe boot was about to come down on the pesky cockroaches once and for all, Rocchigiani settled with the WBC for an undisclosed sum. No $31-million payout. No bankruptcy. No funeral arrangements for the banditos from south of the border. *Ugh!*

WBC President Jose Sulaiman said, "We have gotten up off the canvas only seconds from disappearing." That's like hearing that Beyonce was dialing her phone to ask you out, when a gust of wind suddenly blew your phone number out of her hand and into the flaming Hibachi she was standing alongside. So close … yet, oh, so far.

Better luck next scandal. ■

DIGGING DEEP

By Ivan Goldman

HOW REAL ARE BOXING REALITY SHOWS?

Those two boxing reality shows from Fox and NBC are blending prize fights and show biz into a new kind of smorgasbord. When the shows were first announced, most of us hoped they might create new fight fans. But the producer-promoters have asked for and received special breaks that may or may not be good for the sport. When they ran into snags, they threatened to take their business down the freeway to another state that will give them what they want. It's a time-honored tactic used by boxing promoters and TV/film executives.

Results of the bouts will be kept secret to maintain viewer suspense. But secret results carry a whiff of fakery. Also, according to the *Los Angles Times,* the producer-promoters negotiated special breaks on state taxes, which would normally be five percent of revenues. Reality shows twist, blur, and tailor events to create heightened drama. That may be okay when a show is about desperate losers competing on an island. But it doesn't fit in the fight game. Either a fight is immediate and real, or it isn't.

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

De La Hoya and the* Next Great Champ *hopefuls

"They're not fixing fights," said Don Fraser, who promoted California cards for the dinosaurs and who said he has sources in both reality camps. But an insider told him Fox will announce a winner in a four-rounder that the judges scored a draw. The official records, he said, will show a draw. "It's TV," Fraser said. "You have to have a winner and a loser."

The shows' elaborate publicity structures make it impossible to get serious answers to serious questions. Everyone working for the shows—including boxing officials—must sign confidentiality agreements that give their dogs and families to the producers if they spill any of the beans. That works when you're doing *The Sopranos.* But in the fight game, officials aren't supposed to keep secrets. Besides which, as Fraser pointed out, "Do they really think they can frighten some kid from East L.A. with a lawsuit? He doesn't have anything anyway."

Because fight results will be kept under wraps for months, in some instances, that means a kayoed fighter might avoid the nationally recognized

waiting period of 60 days and take a fight in another state. The fighters have pledged not to fight until the bout is aired. But it's not clear just how tight these pledges are.

How, I asked de facto commission director Dean Lohuis, can the state get away with keeping the results of a sanctioned fight secret? Everyone, he told me, "will find out eventually."

When I told Fraser this, he said, "What is this? Homeland Security?"

As I wrote this, all the attention was on the battle between the two shows, instead of their actual content. It's no secret how the feud began. While NBC was planning *The Contender*, a reality show about hungry, young, attractive fighters clawing their way toward the top, Fox rushed in with *The Next Great Champ*, a reality show about hungry, young, attractive fighters clawing their way toward the top. Fox, working overtime, had its first season in the can and scheduled to debut in early-September, ahead of NBC's show, produced by reality wizard Mark Burnett.

Very big guns on both sides are shooting it out in court. Players include Sylvester Stallone, Sugar Ray Leonard, and George Foreman on the NBC side. Oscar De La Hoya has thrown in with Fox. I won't bother to sort out all the legal issues. This is a fight magazine, not *Business Week*.

The commission is aware these shows pose problems no one anticipated, but as I wrote this, it was paralyzed by inattention from Governor Terminator. The commission is supposed to have eight members, but was down to four, and one has been ill. That means it's not possible to put together a quorum, Commissioner John Frierson told me. Frierson confirmed to me the existence of an in-house memo cited in the *Los Angeles Times* that blasts members of the Fox side, but added, "Part of the problem is that it was done under a commissioner who's no longer on the commission."

Marty Denkin, who was employed by at least one of the shows, told me everything he saw was legit and exciting, but he wouldn't even disclose which show it was. Lohuis told me the producers are licensed promoters following all the rules on medical procedures and everything else. But that doesn't square with the memo leaked to the *Times*. It accuses the Fox show of breaking regulations and even recommends fines against De La Hoya's Golden Boy and a suspension of employee Don Chargin's promoter's license, the *Times* said.

According to the *Times*, The NBC side presented the memo as part of its case against the Fox side. In Hollywood, you can, as certain ex-halfbacks already know, get away with murder. What's really hard is keeping a secret.

Fox, owned by sleaze king Rupert Murdoch, has pulled this copycat business before. Not long ago, ABC accused Fox of ripping off its reality series *Wife Swap*. Fox rushed in first with a show called *Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mommy*. This is like somebody complaining it was his idea to televise pathetic weirdos eating bowls of worms, and now those other guys with no class stole his beautiful concept and won't do it with the proper artistry.

Fox denies it's ripping off NBC and says the other side is "stifling competition." We can all make up our own minds on that.

Several years ago, the late Jerry Boyd, an L.A. trainer who wrote fiction under the pen name F.X. Toole, told me after he signed a film deal that boxing is a breath of fresh air compared to Hollywood. He said The Industry, as it's called in L.A., brims with passive-aggressive psychos who lie just for the hell of it.

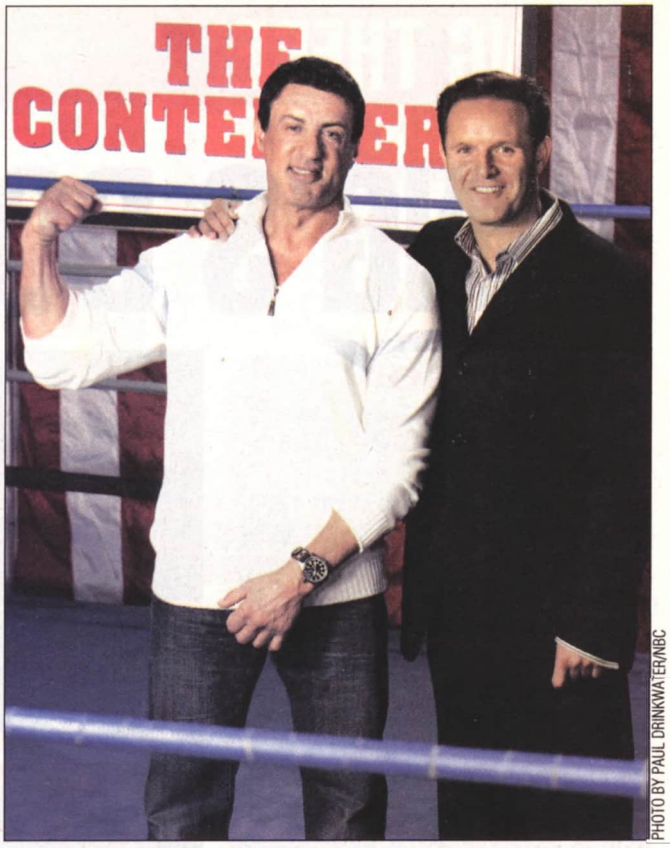


PHOTO BY PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

Fox beat Stallone and Burnett's* Contender *to the punch

What I know about reality shows I learned about two years ago when I watched one for two minutes. The show's title escapes me, but it should have been *Phenomenally Boring People Who Look Marvelous While They Sit Around A House Doing Nothing Interesting*.

Later some anonymous insider released outtakes from the show. Although the producers claimed they had no idea how things would turn out and that everything just happened by itself, the outtakes showed the actors—excuse me, I mean real-life people—doing retakes, following a script. Like I said, you can't keep a secret in this town.

We're in strange new territory here. *Rocky* didn't pretend to be real. When Lou Filippo, a real referee, played a referee, he knew we knew he was only pretending. The shows, Fraser pointed out, are interested only in "kids who have great stories. They want somebody who's sending his little sister to Harvard or buying his mother a home. If their guy starts getting hammered, they'll probably throw the film away. And announcers will not be second-guessing officials, the way Teddy Atlas does."

Anything phony would only reinforce the notion that nothing is straight in boxing. Burnett has a budget of $2-million a show. You could promote some nice cards with that kind of money. As for Fox, it's doing its show the way it does everything else—on the cheap.

Fox has been a force for hideous programming since its inception. Its news and sports coverage are practically identical, consisting largely of talk-gladiators shouting over each other. Not everything said is true, and little effort is made to sort out the facts. Let's hope on this particular project Fox stays on this side of the truth. ■

KING'S BOXING GYM

IF YOU GO:

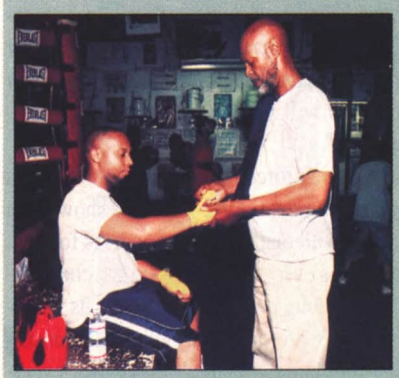
Location: 843 35th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601; phone: 510-261-2199; fax: 510-536-4030

Directions: From the south: I-880 north to 29th Avenue exit toward Fruitvale Avenue. Turn right onto East 9th Street, then left onto 35th Avenue. From the north: I-880 south to Fruitvale Avenue exit. Turn slightly left onto Elmwood Avenue, then left onto Fruitvale. Turn right onto East 9th Street, then left onto 35th Avenue. The gym is located on a short, dead-end street.

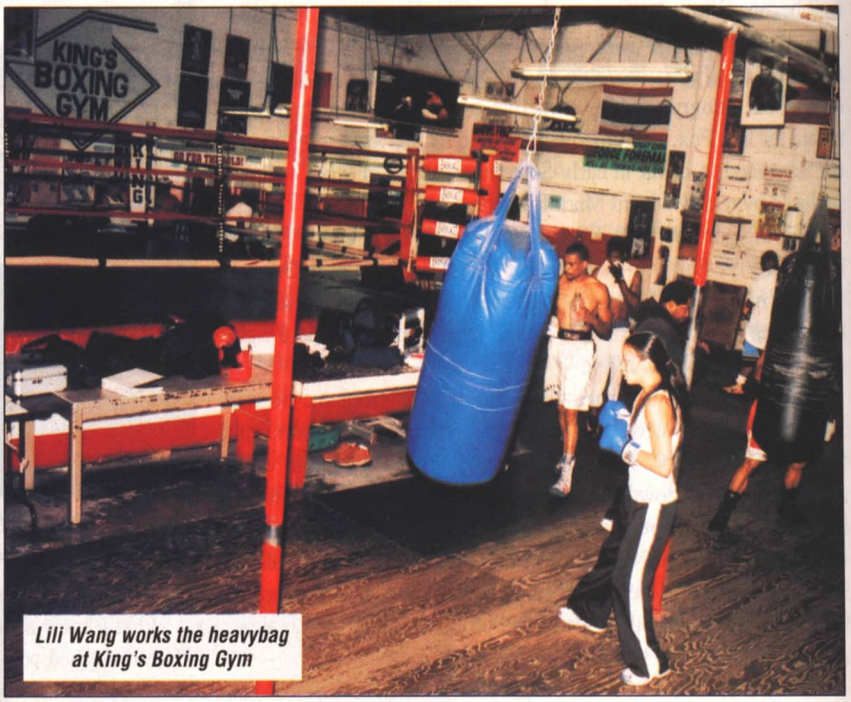
Hours of Operation: Normal business hours are 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday, but the gym is often open on Saturday evenings for sanctioned amateur shows. Membership is $55 per month. Rates for trainers are negotiable, but extremely reasonable.

Who to look out for: A number of local pros train there daily, but the gym's most prominent member is 2004 Olympic gold medalist Andre Ward. Among the exceptional trainers for both serious fighters and the white collar brigade are longtime Bay Area boxing figure Joe Burke, Frank Guzman, Tommy Elder, Robert Salinas, Bobby Warren, and Jesse Block.

Advice to greenhorns: Don't be dissuaded by the neighborhood in which King's is located. Once inside you will be made to feel extremely welcome by everyone you encounter.



Trainer Jesse Block wraps a gym member's hands



Lili Wang works the heavybag at King's Boxing Gym

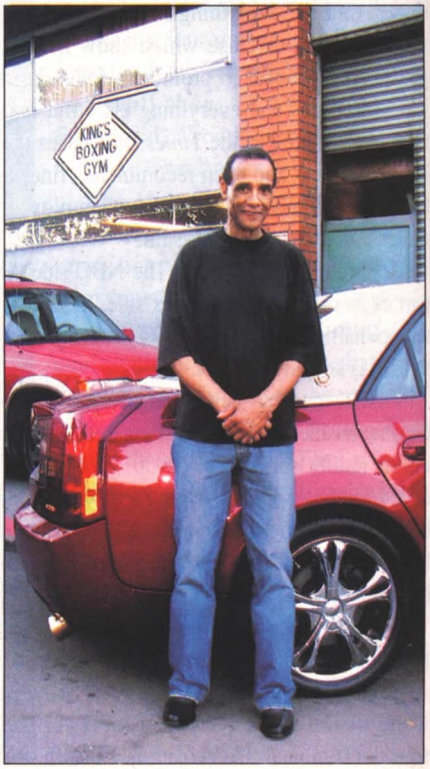
By Robert Mladinich

PHOTOS BY PEARCI BASTIANY

For decades the San Francisco Bay Area was a great fight town with no shortage of gritty gyms. Today, however, the only one that remains is King's Gym, a 5,500-square-foot facility in East Oakland that is both gloriously unpretentious and old-fashioned. Its owner, Charles A. King, a retired railroad engineer, wouldn't have it any other way.

"This is old-school, and I don't ever plan on changing," he said. "We might not be the biggest, but we're the best by far. You won't see any red carpets, and our trainers will tell you the truth. If you want to learn how to box, regardless of your age or condition, this is the place to be. You're not going to get hurt, and you're going to learn according to you own personal timetable."

Although the gym currently has 300 members, including about 25 area pros and numerous amateurs and white-collar war-



Owner Charles King poses outside of his gym

Bobby Anderson keeps one eye on the mirror and the other on Andre Ward's sign

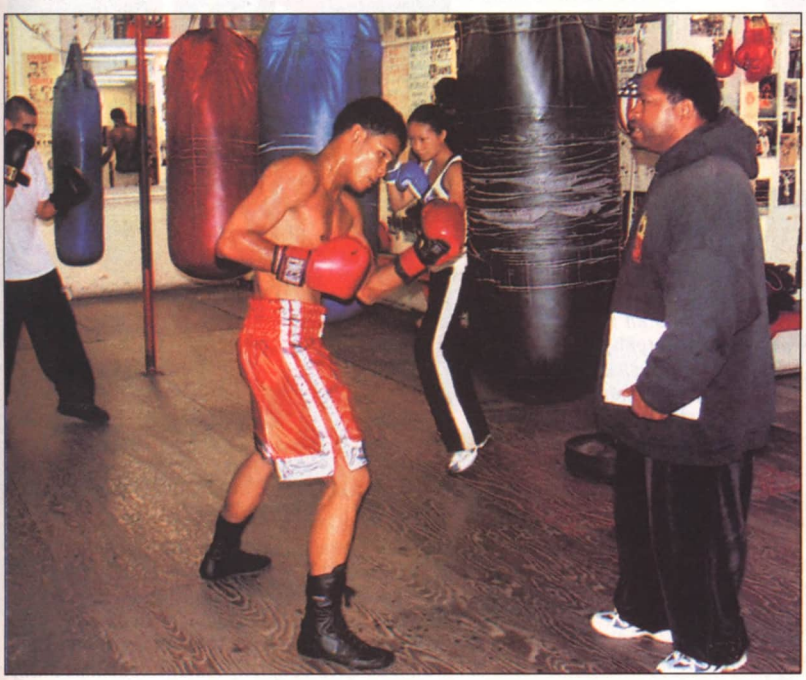
Inspirational signs surround boxer Robert Able

riors, its best-known member is 2004 Olympic gold medalist Andre Ward, who has trained at King's since the day he started boxing at nine years old. Even while traveling around the world with the United States team, Ward's heart was always with his hometown gym. On the wall are postcards he has sent from Europe, and beyond.

"A lot of people were surprised that Andre won a gold medal," said King. "But nobody at the gym was. We've watched him since he was a baby, and he just got better and better. We couldn't be happier or prouder of him."

The gym is comprised of one ring, eight heavybags, and a slew of other conditioning equipment, including a large collection of weights. The tattered walls are festooned not just with phrases of encouragement and empowerment, but also with faded fight posters that reflect decades of Bay Area boxing at all levels. Local icons such as Jauquin Gallardo, "Irish" Pat Lawlor, Andy Nance, Paul Nave, and Tommy Evans were as much at home at King's as visiting luminaries George Foreman, Bonecrusher Smith, and Marvis Frazier.

"There is so much history here," said Jim Scalise, a local business owner who trains with Frank Guzman, the nephew of former light heavyweight contender Yaqui Lopez. "The first time I walked in here, I didn't know what to expect. Charles King says he doesn't roll out the red carpet for anyone, but he sure does in a figurative sense. Anyone that walks through the doors is treated like a longtime member. Not only will they get an unparalleled workout with a first-class trainer, they will meet so many incredibly nice people. If you have any negative preconceptions about boxing and the people who inhabit the sport, a trip to King's will give you a whole new perspective." ■



Alan Cespedes hits the bag under the watchful eye of trainer Dee Pooler

Old fight posters adorn the walls at King's

CAMERA CLICKS

PHOTO BY VINCE BUCCI/GETTY IMAGES

Sugar Shane Mosley may be cutting certain members of his family out of his business affairs, but that doesn't mean he isn't still a family man. That's Mosley's wife, Jin, and their son, Tai, posing for photos at the recent HBO All-Star Family Sports Jam.

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

It doesn't matter if you're talking about hooking the ribs or cooking the ribs, either way, heavyweight contender James Toney's an expert. Nobody in boxing knows more about proper distribution of barbecue sauce than this guy.

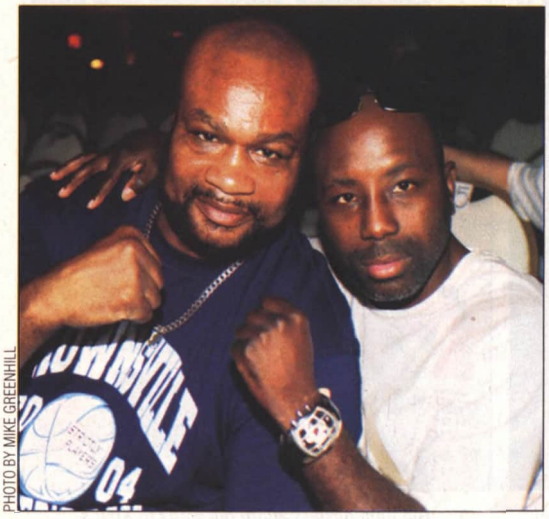


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Eddie Mustafa Muhammad and Mark Johnson don't have a whole lot in common—Mustafa's a retired light heavyweight from Brooklyn, Johnson's an active junior bantamweight from D.C.—but they do share one noteworthy trait: the shiny dome. If you stare at this picture too long, you may find yourself wanting to borrow "Too Sharp's" sunglasses.

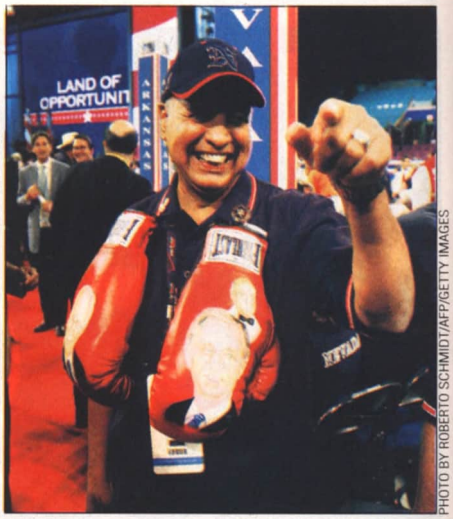


PHOTO BY ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Guess who just became Ivan Goldman's least favorite referee. Joe Cortez represented the state of Nevada at the Republican National Convention in September, sporting separate boxing gloves adorned with the likenesses of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. Ivan, who appropriately hails from the Left Coast, theorizes that that's why Bernard Hopkins was hesitant to trust Cortez.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

At the weigh-in prior to his fight with Australian Kali Meehan, Lamon Brewster got acquainted with a kangaroo—which was somewhat appropriate in that the judges' decision two nights later almost felt like a verdict in a kangaroo court. During the fight, Brewster probably found himself envious of the kangaroo's pouch, which would have given him someplace to keep his hands warm as long as he wasn't using them.

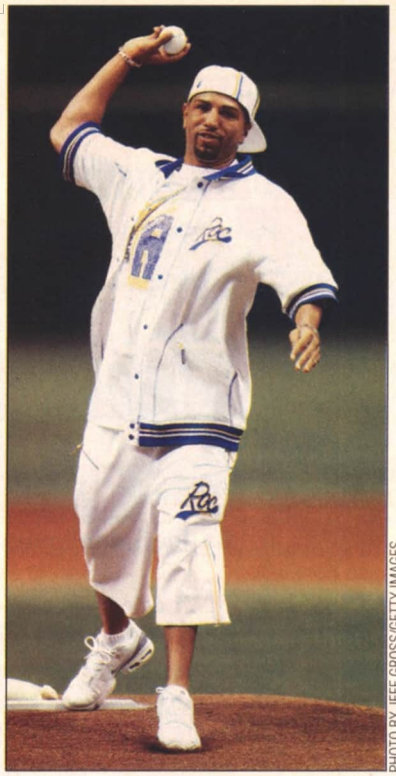


PHOTO BY JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Apparently the Tampa Bay Devil Rays wanted to have a winner on the mound for a change, so they called in Florida's own Winky Wright to throw out the opening pitch at a game against the New York Yankees. Notice which hand Wright's throwing the ball with; we guess he's not really a southpaw after all.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Onetime junior lightweight beltholder Eddie Hopson didn't quite live up to expectations as a fighter, but as a magician, he was topnotch. His mid-ring levitation bit remains mystifying to this day. It's too bad that in his later fights he so often found himself in a similar pose, but without the four feet of air between his back and the canvas.

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

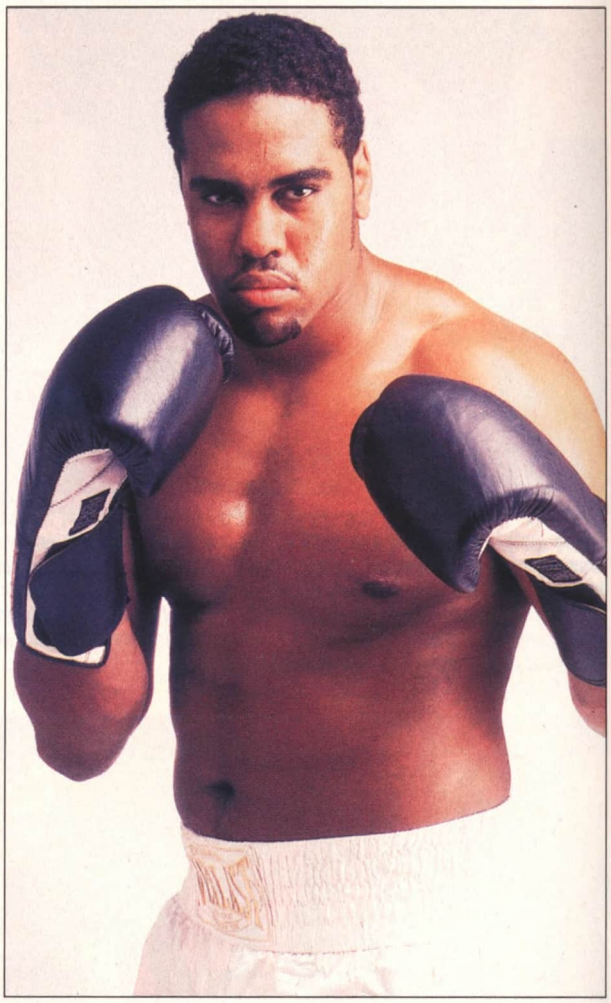
What's better than three sexy round card girls all in a row? How 'bout Jeannie, Aubrey, Crystal, and Mary—four sexy round card girls all in a row at a recent Ballroom Boxing show in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

NEW FACES

EDDIE CHAMBERS

Heavyweight

By Joe Santoliquito



PRO RECORD

2000		
Dec. 29	Tyrone Austin, Chester, WV	KO 2
2001		
March 3	Ed Berry, Burgettstown, PA	KO 1
April 7	Scott Hosaflook, Chester	KO 3
April 20	Joe Lenart, Burgettstown	W 6
June 23	Anthony Prince, Burgettstown	KO 1
Aug. 3	Joe Lenart, Pittsburgh	W 6
Aug. 25	Carlos Igo, Burgettstown	W 6
Oct. 27	Mark Johnson, Steubenville, OH	KO 4
2002		
April 26	David Chappell, Pittsburgh	W 8
May 24	David Chappell, Philadelphia	W 6
Sept. 20	Antonio Colbert, Philadelphia	KO 5
Dec. 6	Dean Storey, Philadelphia	W 6
2003		
Feb. 21	Kevin Tallon, Philadelphia	KO 1
April 25	Craig Tomlinson, Philadelphia	KO 4
Aug. 15	Allan Smith, Philadelphia	KO 2
Dec. 5	Samuel Tillman, Philadelphia	KO 3
2004		
Feb. 27	Cornelius Ellis, Philadelphia	W 8
April 23	Marcus Rhode, Philadelphia	KO 2
June 25	John Sargent, Philadelphia	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
19	19	0	0	12

Eddie Chambers would stumble along in the morning dusk, oblivious to the bone-numbing Pittsburgh chill. He was barely able to keep his eyes open, so drowsy that sleep, work, and school would all meld into this never-ending, semi-comatose existence. When he could, he'd try to sneak in a quick catnap at 3 a.m.—only to be awoken by the red lights and *beep, beep, beep* of a delivery truck backing in.

And so it went for four years, as he helped his father deliver hundreds of newspapers each morning. No holidays, no time off. Just the same everyday grind—a lesson for young Chambers as to what he *didn't* want in life.

Those memories have carved a lasting motivational reservoir for the 6'2", 225-pound Chambers, 19-0 (12), who's hoping boxing will be the key to a better future. When he's in the ring, his arms and lungs may burn, but if he could survive serious manual labor every day as a teenager, he figures he can continue fighting too. Those tough times are a major reason why the 22-year-old Chambers remains undefeated, with the intention of making some noise in the moribund heavyweight class some time next year.

Chambers first started working with his father, Eddie Chambers Sr., when he was 14, a freshman in high school. The family struggled to bring home enough money to get by, so each morning Eddie and his dad would wake up at 2:30 a.m. to get to the delivery station by 3 a.m.

They would deliver to 330 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* subscribers, lugging hundreds of pounds of paper to the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh. For Eddie, it was then off to school

(Continued on page 68)

International Boxing Hall of Fame - Canastota, New York

I ♥ NY

ANNUAL INDUCTION WEEKEND JUNE 9-12, 2005

★ A Championship Weekend in Boxing's Hometown ★

BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS

Reminiscing . . . Livingstone Bramble and Lou Duva share fight stories with Banquet crowd.

FIST CASTING

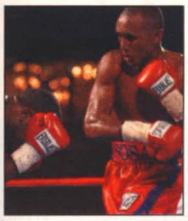
Everlasting . . . Fist cast by George Foreman.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Marvelous . . . Marvin Hagler waves to fans.

Hooray . . . Grand Marshal Tony Orlando enjoys fans along Parade route.

CELEBRITY BOXING NIGHT



VICTORIANO SOSA

Fight Night . . . Popular boxers featured in action-packed bouts at Turning Stone Casino Resort.

MUSEUM GROUNDS

Autographs . . . George Foreman spends time signing autographs on the Museum grounds.

5K RACE, FUN RUN

Finish Line . . . "Irish" Micky Ward in stride.

Go . . . Ken Norton officially starts race of celebrity boxers and runners.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

A Moment in Time . . . Qawi, Peltz, Nelson, Zaragoza, Palomino, and Christodoulou proudly display their rings.

BOXING CARD SHOW

A Collector's Dream . . . Boxing memorabilia for fans. The world's only all-boxing show draws collectors from throughout the world.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Chip . . . Gerry Cooney (l) chips onto 18th green while Sir Henry Cooper (r) is enroute to next tee.

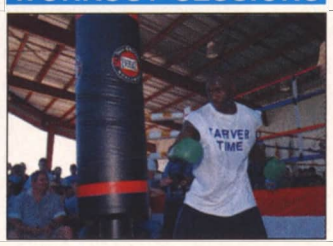
COCKTAIL PARTY

Stars . . . Boxers and fans enjoy VIP cocktail party reception.

MUSEUM

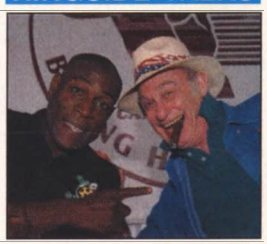
Carlos Palomino points to his boxing robe on display.

WORKOUT SESSIONS



Antonio Tarver working the heavy bag during a public workout.

RINGSIDE TALKS



Having Fun. . . Frank Bruno and Bert Sugar team up for a ringside lecture.

Yes! Please send me a brochure of the Schedule of Events and ticket information

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Int'l Boxing Hall of Fame

PO Box 425 • Canastota, NY 13032

Call: 315-697-7095

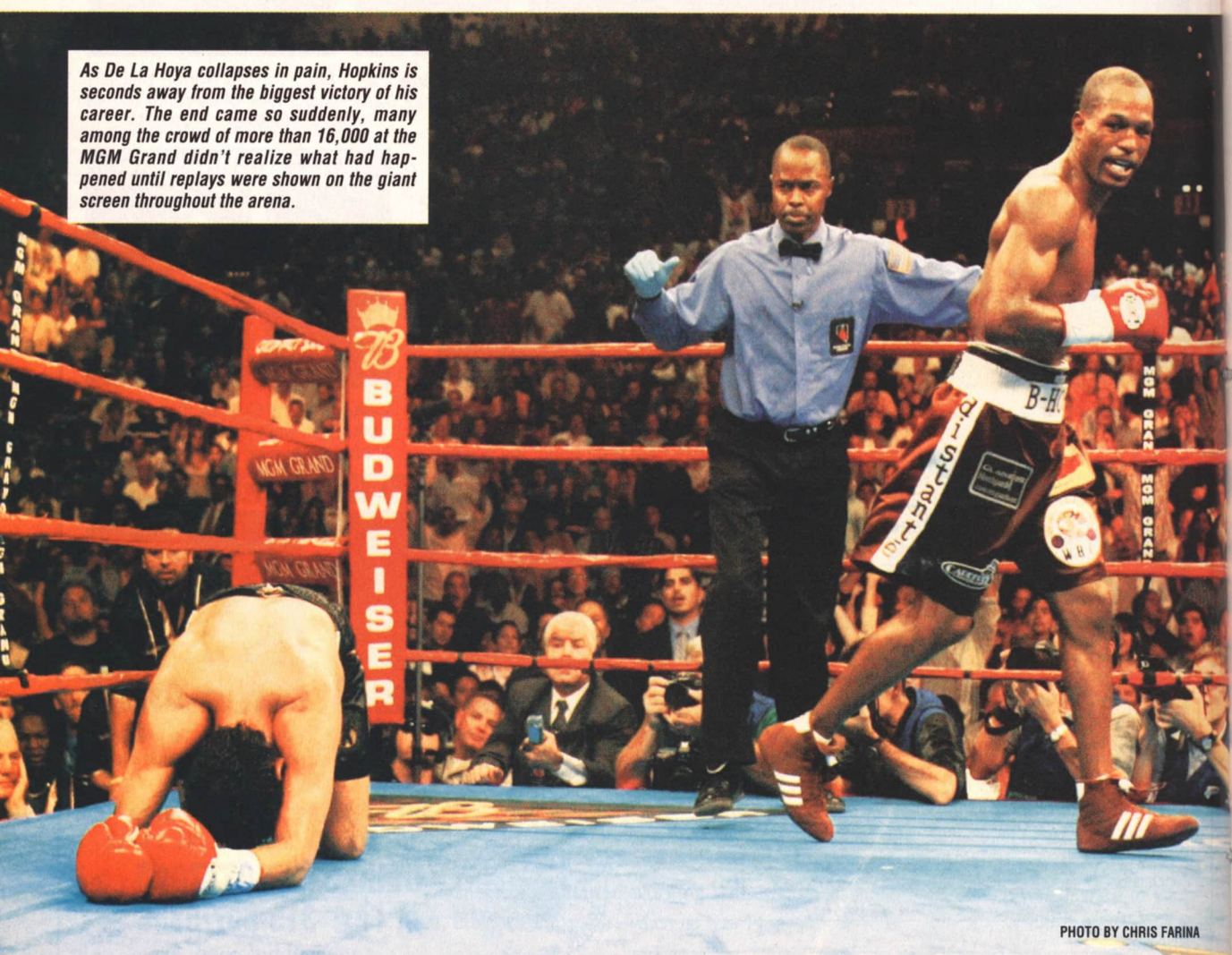
or Fax: 315-697-5356

www.ibhof.com

Madison County Tourism 1-800-684-7320

A LEGEND IN OUR MIDST

Hopkins Dismantles De La Hoya With Subtle Brilliance



As De La Hoya collapses in pain, Hopkins is seconds away from the biggest victory of his career. The end came so suddenly, many among the crowd of more than 16,000 at the MGM Grand didn't realize what had happened until replays were shown on the giant screen throughout the arena.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

By Nigel Collins

Genius at work is seldom spectacular. Regardless of whether it's Einstein at the chalkboard working out his theory of relativity, or Michelangelo on his scaffold painting the Sistine Chapel, it's the results that take your breath away, not the actual labor itself. And so it was when Bernard Hopkins created his latest masterpiece, a knockout of Oscar De La Hoya that appeared somewhat prosaic in progress but ultimately resulted in his magnum opus—and certainly left De La Hoya breathless.

In the final analysis, it doesn't matter whether or not Hopkins' one-punch destruction of "The Golden Boy" elevates the middleweight champion in the minds of pay-per-view patrons, because as Hopkins said in the immediate aftermath of his division-record 19th successful title defense, "Money you can make, and money you can lose. But history you can't erase. That lives way after I'm dead. That's important to Bernard Hopkins."

There's no doubt that history will be kind to Hopkins, a true believer in the power of professionalism and perseverance who has punched out a place among the all-time greats of the middleweight division. Today, he stands shoulder to shoulder with Ketchel, Greb, Robinson, Monzon, and Hagler, the iconic gladiators who have made the 160-pound class second only to the heavyweights in terms of popularity and prestige. If Hopkins' knockout of Felix Trinidad started him up the ladder leading to the middleweight Mount Rushmore, the De La Hoya victory was the rock carvers' cue to start sculpting his face in stone. Pretty he is not, but make no mistake, a true legend walks among us. Those who still don't comprehend that fact should be counted among those who think there is no sun on a cloudy day.

It is true, however, that you have to understand the subtle nuances of the Sweet Science to fully appreciate Hopkins' artistry. He does not swing for the fences like Tyson, bedazzle like Jones, or bleed like Gatti. What Hopkins does is as complicated as the inner workings of a computer, but at the same time as basic as digging a ditch. It's a craft honed by countless hours in the toughest gyms in Philadelphia, where a few wise old-heads still impart the wisdom handed down from the days when it took more than a $25 license and a towel over your shoulder to call yourself a trainer.

That Hopkins graduated summa cum laude from these inner-city sweatshops comes as no surprise to those who have followed his career. But as technically brilliant as he clearly is, it was not skill alone that enabled him to endure the bitter fruit harvested the first decade of his pro career. His character, as strong and finely tuned as his body, kept him focused when it often seemed as if the entire boxing industry was conspiring against him. Weaker men would have given up altogether or capitulated to the powers that be. But Hopkins never

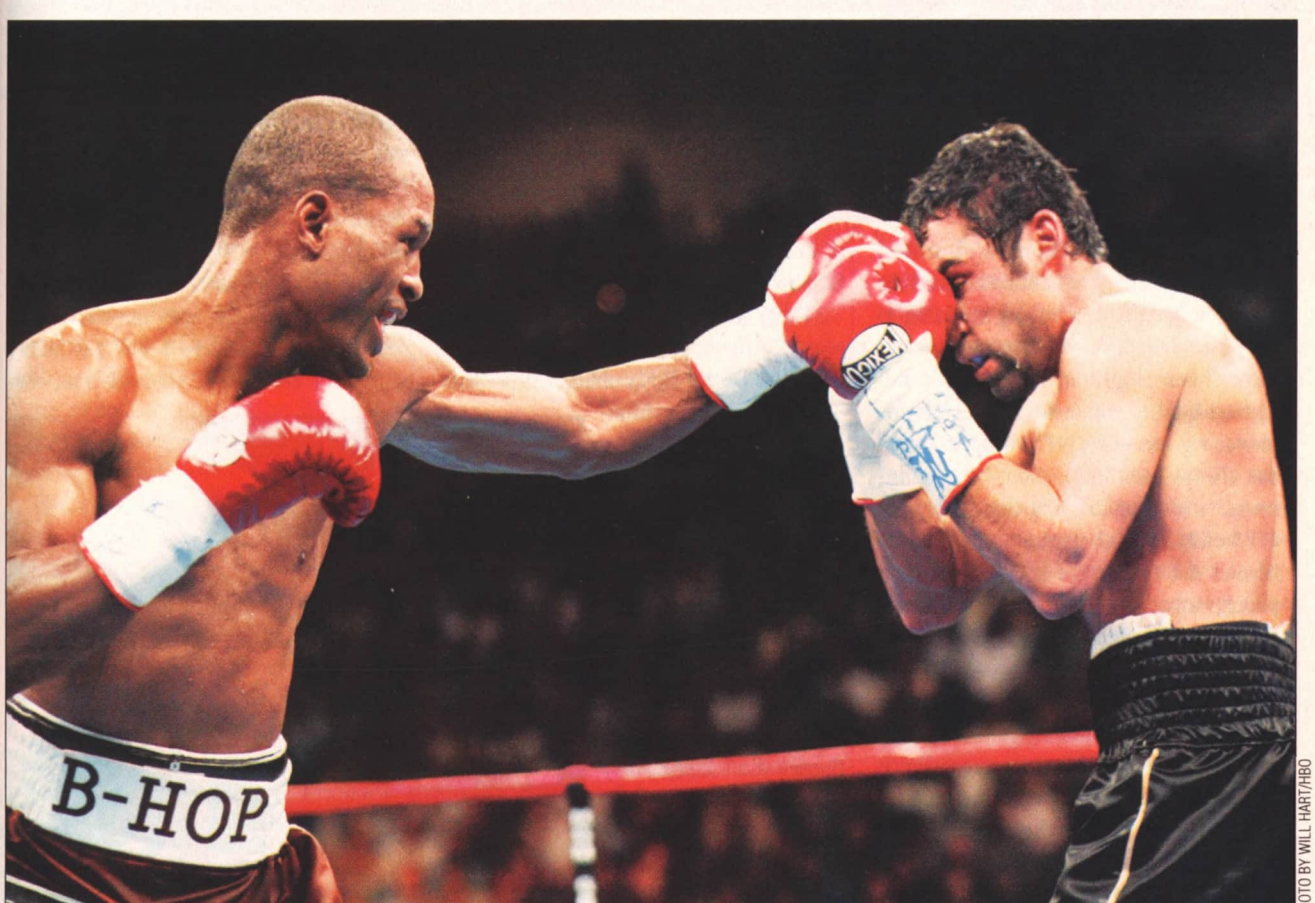


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Most of the early rounds were filled with cautious boxing, as both men tried to outsmart the other. Things started to change when Hopkins began to find the range for his jab, which actually appeared to be quicker than De La Hoya's.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

De La Hoya, determined to prove his courage by trying to outpunch Hopkins, did manage to connect with a number of telling blows such as this flush left hook. But he could never inflict enough damage to hurt the undisputed middleweight champion.

PERFECT EXECUTION

Anybody who thought Bernard Hopkins was going to bum rush Oscar De La Hoya hadn't been paying attention to the first 48 fights of his career. That has never been Hopkins' modus operandi against quality fighters, and despite his menacing presence, "The Executioner" has always been more about "executing" moves inside of the ring than chopping off heads. So when the early rounds turned out to feature more parry than punch, nobody, least of all De La Hoya, should have been surprised.

The first was the quintessential feel 'em out round, as both men maneuvered carefully around the ring, tentatively probing while avoiding serious contact. It looked like some sort of exotic mating ritual, one advancing and then quickly withdrawing if the other as much as batted an eyelid. Perhaps the most telling blow was a right to the thigh that Hopkins slipped in during a clinch when referee Kenny Bayless' view was blocked.

There wasn't much more action in the second. After both connected with rights to the head, De La Hoya unleashed the first of numerous shoeshine-style combinations, eliciting a scream of ecstasy from the pro-Oscar crowd, even though none of the blows landed. That established one of the patterns of the fight, and even on the rare occasion that some of the punches in De La Hoya's rapid-fire flurries did connect, they had minimal impact.

Hopkins, an astonishingly lithe 156, began to find a home for his lead right in the third, but it was still very much a chess match. There was some rough stuff on the inside in the fourth and fifth, with De La Hoya, a ripped 155, joining in the fun and digging below the belt.

Hopkins increased the tempo slightly in the sixth, but it was another close round that could have been reasonably scored for either man. Had the bout con-

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Hopkins clocks De La Hoya with a hook

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

When trainer Bouie Fisher told Hopkins to pick it up, the Philadelphian responded by increasing the frequency and power of his punches. It was, however, his boxing skill as much as his power that carried Hopkins to victory.

tinued in the same vein, the champion risked losing the title on what is euphemistically known as a "Vegas decision," and his trainer, Bouie Fisher, told him to step up the pressure. Hopkins responded by snapping his left jab into De La Hoya's face with more vigor and frequency and also landed three solid rights to have his best round so far.

By then the expression of De La Hoya's face had gone from grim confidence to just plain grim.

The eighth was another solid round for Hopkins. Nothing spectacular, but he jolted De La Hoya early with a left uppercut, connected with a steady stream of jabs after that, and swept the round on all three cards despite a good left hook by De La Hoya near the bell.

The coup de grace was delivered with the kind of savvy seldom seen in these days of blatant belligerence. Hopkins jabbed his fading foe into the ropes, momentarily blocking his escape route with his right shoulder, and then stepped to his left and dug a short left hook to the liver. There was a split-second delay as the pain raced though De La Hoya's circuitry, and then he crumpled to his knees, assisted by an inconsequential hook to the head.

"I heard him wince and I knew he wasn't going to get up," said Hopkins, 45-2-1 (32) with 1 no-contest. "It was chopped liver with a little bit of sauce on it."

Not that De La Hoya didn't try to get up; his body simply wouldn't obey, and as the count neared 10, all he could do was pound his gloves on the canvas in frustration. A tick or two of the clock later, it was all over.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd get stopped by a bodyshot," said De La Hoya. "But he landed a great, great shot and stopped me. What can I say? He's the middleweight champion of the world."

Television: HBO Pay-Per-View

Promoter: Top Rank/Golden Boy Promotions

(9-18-04)

—NC

wavered, never swerved from his chosen path, and never ditched his principles in favor of a fast buck, even when the roadblocks appeared insurmountable.

True, there were times when Hopkins tripped over his own paranoid-tinged stubbornness, but now, in the golden glow of his latest triumph, even the most egregious missteps seem minor compared to the gigantic leap he's taken from the penitentiary to the pinnacle of his profession. And when Hopkins entered the MGM Grand Garden Arena to the sound of "My Way," the sentiment suited him just as much as it did Sinatra.

De La Hoya thought he was going to be fighting the middleweight champion of the world, a tough enough task for a fighter who turned pro as a 133-pounder, even one as gifted as he is. But it wasn't just an accomplished and dedicated champion he was confronting; he was also up against the journey that had led

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

It was a move very similar to the one pictured that Hopkins used to end De La Hoya's bid to capture the undisputed middleweight title. When a punch lands directly on the liver, it usually paralyzes the victim and renders him totally helpless for several minutes.

Hopkins to that moment. It was an odyssey that had taken him into the heart of darkness and back again, forcing him to battle the boxing establishment just as hard as he did his opponents, all the while fending off detractors at every turn.

The Golden Boy never had to wash pots and pans in order to survive, or practically beg to have his photo on the cover of a boxing magazine. De La Hoya never had to defend his title for $100,000 on ESPN, or find a storefront lawyer to defend him against a high-priced team of attorneys. Granted, none of that would have mattered if Hopkins didn't have the fighting ability to go along with it, but when you combine the life experiences that have forged him with his impeccable craftsmanship, it creates as formidable a middleweight as the game has seen since Marvin Hagler hightailed it off to Italy after losing to another era's golden boy.

In fact, during the prefight hype, much was made of the similarities between Hopkins-De La Hoya and the last middleweight fight of that magnitude, Sugar Ray Leonard's upset victory over Hagler in 1987. But the comparison was superficial and to a degree misleading. Hagler, due in large part to his punishing brawls with Thomas Hearns and John "The Beast" Mugabi, was, at age 32, nowhere near as fresh a fighter as the 39-year-old Hopkins who deflated De La Hoya. Hopkins has wisely preserved himself since the Trinidad bout, staying scalpel sharp by turning back four second-tier challengers while fighting on cruise control.

When the De La Hoya fight was first announced, it was difficult to find anybody outside of the challenger's camp who thought he was going to win, but as the first bell approached there was growing support in favor of De La Hoya. Some of that was due to the six-pack that had replaced the paunch De La Hoya sported for his close shave against Felix Sturm in June. Even so, Hopkins entered the ring a minus-220 favorite, which meant punters had to bet $220 on the champ to win $100.

For the first six rounds, it seemed that those who bet De La Hoya at plus-180 might have an outside chance of cashing in. But when Hopkins' dominance

GOLDEN IN DEFEAT

In his three previous losses, De La Hoya had whined like a mistreated puppy dog, bitched about the decision, and even threatened to finance an investigation following his second loss to Shane Mosley. But in his darkest hour, following his emphatic hammering at the hands of Hopkins, he stood up like a true warrior and looked defeat squarely in the eye.

"No excuses. He beat me fair and square," said De La Hoya, a baseball cap pulled down over his sweaty brow, his face barely marked. "I give him all the respect in the world. I tried to do the impossible, but it just didn't work out."

Not that De La Hoya couldn't have found an excuse if he reached for one. The Wednesday before the fight, his cutman, Joe Chavez, had

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

An understandably despondent De La Hoya had nothing to be ashamed of

PHOTO BY DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES

As he heads gleefully to a neutral corner, Hopkins already knows that De La Hoya will not beat the count. The unequivocal victory over such a huge superstar washed away the bitter taste of so many years of frustration that "The Executioner" has endured since turning pro in 1988.

accidentally sliced De La Hoya's left hand between his ring and middle fingers while cutting off his handwraps following a workout. But when asked after the fight if the 11-stitch cut had hampered him, De La Hoya, to his credit, refused to use it as an alibi.

Hopefully, his classy reaction indicates a newfound maturity that he is sure to need if he continues to fight, and there's absolutely no reason he shouldn't if he wants to. The punch that paralyzed him for a minute or two was actually something of a blessing in disguise, as had the fight continued much longer, chances are good that he would have taken a prolonged and much more harmful beating.

That De La Hoya, 37-4 (29), is not really a full-fledged middleweight has been clearly demonstrated in his fights with Hopkins and Sturm. All he has to do is drop one more pound than the 155 he weighed for Hopkins, and he's right back where he belongs, in the junior middleweight division, where a match with the winner of the Winky Wright-Mosley rematch would be a natural. If, on the other hand, he decides to call it quits, he has the satisfaction of knowing he went down swinging.

"I feel proud going up [in weight] against the undisputed middleweight champion," De La Hoya reflected. "And I know I can do better. There are always little things you can do better. He could throw that punch a million times and he wouldn't land it exactly in the place he landed it—right on the button, in the perfect spot."

One must take comfort wherever they can find it in such circumstances, but it would be unwise for Hopkins' future opponents to bank on that particular aspect of De La Hoya's analysis. Still, his admission of defeat will go a long way toward winning over those who have been waiting for The Golden Boy to grow into a man.

—NC

became more apparent in the seventh and eighth rounds, those riding the long shot must have felt like Stewart Elliott at the Belmont. When Fisher told him "to pick it up," Hopkins cranked up the intensity a notch and overtook his most famous rival before they entered the homestretch.

There was delicious irony in the finishing blow that cut down De La Hoya at the 1:38 mark of the ninth round. The left hook to the liver has long been considered the signature punch of fighters of Mexican heritage, so perhaps it's understandable if De La Hoya and his trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr., had forgotten that Philadelphia fighters also have a tradition of throwing the hook.

"We've been teaching that punch for years," said Fisher, the 76-year-old dean of Philly trainers, of the act of planting a punch on that ultra-vulnerable area between the top of the hip and the bottom of the ribcage.

The end came with such suddenness that many among the capacity crowd of 16,112 didn't realize at first what had happened. But there was no missing the

unprecedented sight of De La Hoya writhing in agony on the canvas as referee Kenny Bayless counted him out. It was, as Kevin Iole of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* wrote, "an old-school punch from an old-school fighter," as emblematic of Hopkins as it ever was of Ruben Olivares, Mexico's finest proponent of the punch.

This time there was no buzz killer to detract from Hopkins' moment of glory, no missing trophy, presumably pre-engraved with his opponent's name, as there was the night he beat Trinidad at Madison Square Garden. Bob Arum was smart enough to treat Hopkins with the respect he deserves, which could very well place Top Rank in position to promote his next fight. Arum made it "absolutely perfectly clear" that he had "no options whatsoever" on Hopkins' future fights. But when the winner addressed the media, he was quick to point out how happy he was with the way the entire promotion was handled, and that Arum would have "first ear" when the time came to negotiate his next bout.

Less than an hour after Hopkins fulfilled his promise of becoming the first to stop De La Hoya, media matchmakers were eager to bulldoze the career-long middleweight into a match with light heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver. Hopkins, however, has his own itinerary.

"I'm not a light heavyweight," he said. "Do I want to put myself at great risk to do something like that? I've got to think hard about that. I do want big fights, but I'm going to be smart about it."

Hopkins' number-one priority is to tally his 20th defense of the middleweight title. He said that he didn't yet know who the "unlucky 20th" would be, and a quick scan of THE RING's top 10 160-pounders fails to unearth a contender who would generate anything like the $10-million payday Hopkins earned fighting De La Hoya.

Sturm, who followed his excellent performance against De La Hoya with a decision over Robert "Push Up" Frazier the night before Hopkins-De La Hoya, would have some market value, as would former Olympian Jermain Taylor. But neither have anywhere near De La Hoya's box-

PHOTOS BY PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

Two days after the big win, Hopkins appeared on* The Tonight Show With Jay Leno *(above and below), hamming it up with the late-night talk show host. After years of being known only to hardcore boxing fans, Hopkins is now crossing over toward mainstream celebrity status.

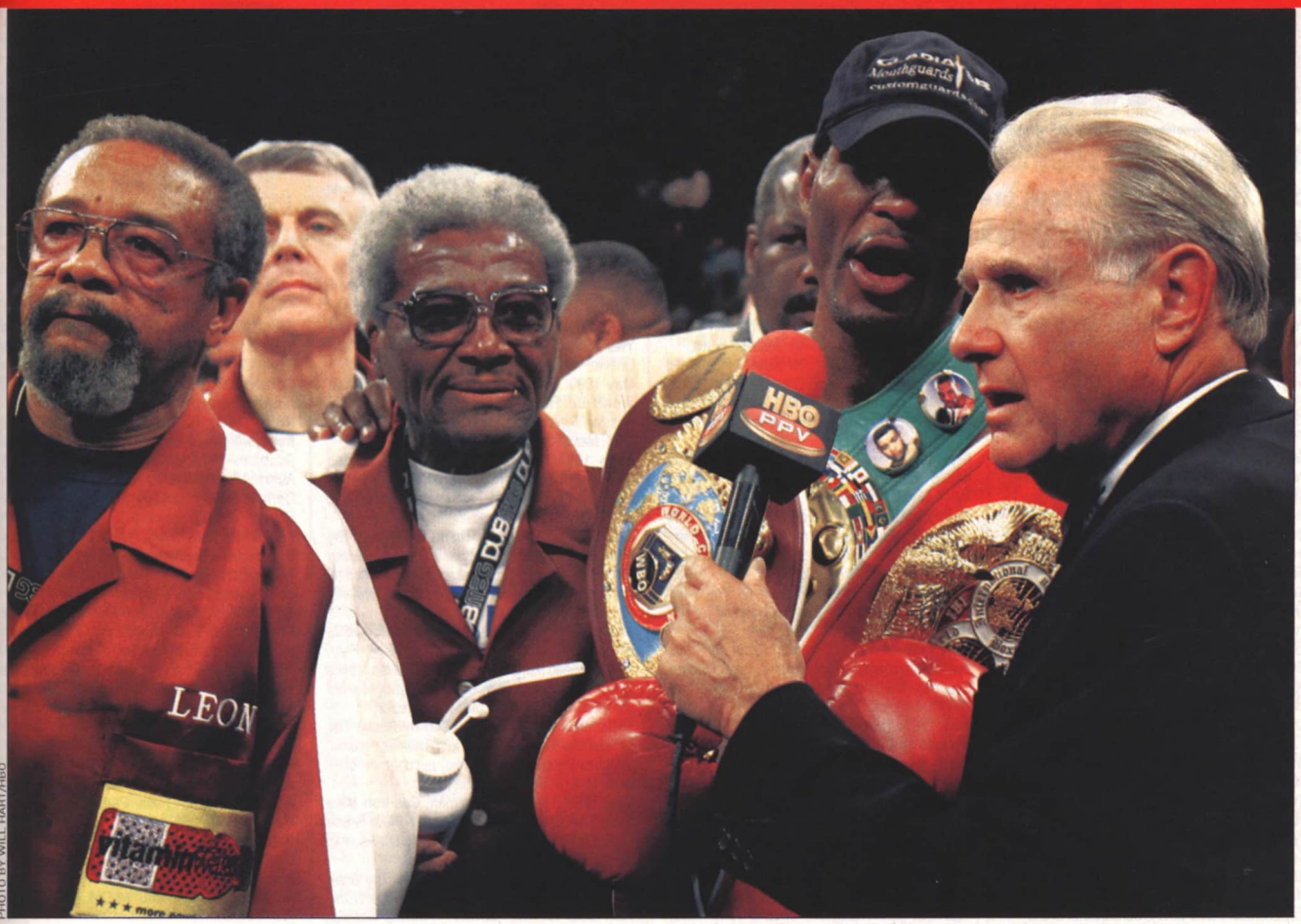


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Cutman Leon Tabbs and trainer Fisher join Hopkins and HBO's Larry Merchant for the traditional postfight interview. Merchant's lukewarm reaction to Hopkins' victory was the only downer of the night for the undisputed champ.

office appeal. While Sturm voiced his willingness to take on either Hopkins or De La Hoya, Taylor's people would probably balk at risking the investment they've made in him by throwing their meal ticket in with the champ at this juncture.

Howard Eastman, THE RING's number-one contender, certainly deserves an opportunity, but the Englishman means even less to the majority of PPV consumers than Sturm or Taylor.

Hopkins did admit that he'd fight a rematch with Roy Jones "at the drop of a dime," but if Jones gets past Glencoffe Johnson (as he should have by the time you read this), it will be Jones, not Hopkins, who will most likely share a ring with Tarver. Moreover, Jones hasn't made the middleweight limit in a decade, so there's no way he's going to be number 20, "unlucky" or not.

Regardless of who is in the opposite corner when Hopkins attempts to extend his defense record, it will be a crucial test of "The Executioner's" drawing power. Prior to De La Hoya, he did his best numbers against Trinidad, another fighter like De La Hoya who enjoys a fanatical following regardless of whom he fights. The results since then have been inconclusive.

Hopkins fought before sellout crowds in two of his four post-Trinidad, pre-De La Hoya fights, drawing 8,243 at the relatively small Sovereign Center in Reading, Pennsylvania, for his TKO of Carl Daniels, and 12,346 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City for his one-sided decision over William Joppy. But the Joppy fight was on a card that also featured Cory Spinks, Ricardo Mayorga, Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Hasim Rahman, Rosendo Alvarez, and several other mid-level attractions. In his other two outings during that period, Hopkins bombed in his hometown, where less than 6,000 turned up to see him dispose of no-hoper Morrade Hakkar, while a less-than-capacity crowd of 13,041 showed up at the MGM for the PPV infomercial against Robert Allen, co-starring De La Hoya-Sturm.

Exactly how far Hopkins' own star has risen following his kayo of De La Hoya remains to be seen, but he did garner a guest spot on *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* the Monday after the fight. Such appearances have become something of a right of passage for boxers edging their way into the mainstream, and who's to say Hopkins can't get some mileage out of the fact that he's almost 40 and still the best fighter, pound-for-pound, on the planet. He's never going to be as cuddly as George Foreman, but in his own way Hopkins can be very engaging, and when he spoke at the postfight press conference about being a role model and wanting to help young boxers, you could tell he was just as sincere as when he promised to become the first to stop De La Hoya.

Surely, at some level, Hopkins knows he's never going to have the mass adulation that De La Hoya enjoys, and perhaps that's how it should be. De La Hoya will always be more of a star than a fighter, while Hopkins will always be more of a fighter than a star. And once the bells ring, that's what really counts. ■

Back Issues of The RING

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa Muhammad, Hagler-Duran preview, Johnson-Gotch.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: "That Championship Year." Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: RING Olympic Special. Plus: Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Albert Davila, Bonecrusher-Bruno.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Thomas Hearns—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Annual ratings, Fight, Upset, Round, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To THE RING Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

May 1986: Hagler vs. Mugabi: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Bramble-Crawley, Tyson-Ferguson, 10 worst decisions.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, THE RING annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new RING ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Lockridge & Mayweather, Tony Burton, Julio Cesar Chavez, blood.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be ... But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

Oct. 1995 (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Dec. 1995: Mike Tyson (vs. Peter McNeeley): The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Morrison-Lewis preview, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, 10 best chins.

Jan. 1996: King Bruno! A Hero Always ... A Winner At Last. Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Chris Eubank, Eddie Perkins, who's hot/who's not.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Is Mike Tyson Finished? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Camacho preview, Frankie Conley, Hall of Fame, gloves,

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza,

Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: The Ring's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: The Ring's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of The Ring Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Schmeling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

April 2000 (92-Page Special): Paulie Ayala—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Grant-Golota, Stephan Johnson, Gaspar Ortega, Kitten Hayward, writers' favorite fights.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed Ring Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

July 2000 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya, Barrera-Morales, Ken Buchanan, Beau Jack, Eric Bottjer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE)

Dec. 2000: The Hell With Tyson—Tua Is The Man Who Could Beat Lewis. Plus: Mike Tyson, Felix Trinidad, Wladimir Klitschko, Trilla in Manila, U.S. vs. World, Toxey Hall.

Feb. 2001: It's Not Over For Oscar: The Ring's Five-Step Recovery Plan. Plus: Bob Arum, Dingaan Thobela, Hernandez brothers, U.S. Olympic team, future pound-for-pounders.

March 2001 (108-Page Extra): Tyson! Forget About Retirement ... A Title Shot Awaits! Plus: Ayala-Tapia II, Audley Harrison, Chris Byrd, Kirk Johnson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Boone Kirkman, 12 most exciting rounds.

April 2001: A New Beginning ... A New Middle: Felix Trinidad Is Ready To Conquer Another Division! Plus: Shane Mosley, Lennox Lewis, Paul Andrews, boxing business.

May 2001 (108-Page Extra): Felix Trinidad—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Barrera-Hamed preview, Bernard Hopkins, Joey Archer.

June 2001: Pretty Boy Floyd: Superstar Or Superbrat? Plus: Lewis vs. greats, 2000 Olympians, Henry Hall, rematches we'd like to see.

July 2001 (108-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Plus: Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Andrew Lewis, Mark Johnson, British boxing.

Aug. 2001: Rocking The World! What Rahman's Victory Means To Boxing. Plus: Barrera-Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Mount Whitaker, *Friday Night Fights.*

Sept. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Ring Interview—Hasim Rahman: "Nobody's Taking My Titles!" Plus: 20 all-time greatest lightweights, Pat Valentino, Hopkins & King, Jones & Arum.

Oct. 2001: Trinidad vs. Hopkins: Middleweight Unification Superfight Analysis & Predictions. Plus: Emanuel Steward, Joe Calzaghe, Ali's opponents, Rahman & King.

Dec. 2001: The Rock Promises Another Shock! "I'm Gonna Knock Lennox Out Again!" Plus: David Reid, Jones-Gonzalez, McCline-Grant, Jackie Graves, ring deaths.

Jan. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Oscar Feeds His Critics: Did He Chicken Out Against Vargas? Plus: Wladimir Klitschko, Chris Byrd, 20 greatest featherweights, "Caveman" Bob Moha.

March 2002 (108-Page Extra): Is Tyson Ready To Regain The Title? Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Floyd Mayweather, Bernard Hopkins, Eddie Futch, fitness, ahead for 2002.

May 2002 (108-Page Extra): Bernard Hopkins—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Holyfield-Ruiz III, 2000 Olympians, Eric Harding, "Silent" Hairston.

June 2002: Lennox Lewis: I'll End The Tyson "Freak Show!" Plus: Forrest-Mosley, Freitas-Casamayor, De La Hoya & Vargas, Hagler & Leonard.

July 2002 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Preview: The Oscar-Fernando Hatefest. Plus: Hopkins & Monzon, Francisco Bojado, Buddy McGirt, Lionel Rose, State of the Game.

Aug. 2002: Lewis vs. Tyson: Who Will Win ... And What Happens Next. Plus: Michael Moorer, Jeff Fenech, Charley Parham, Rafael & Juan Manuel Marquez.

Sept. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Vernon Forrest—Next Step In The Master Plan: End Mosley's Career. Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Ricardo Mayorga, 20 greatest lightweights.

Oct. 2002: Tito' Back ... And He's "Going To Make Hopkins Pay!" Plus: Ward-Gatti, Bouie Fisher, controversial scoring, ruining prospects.

Nov. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Monster Mashed! Can A New Tyson Emerge From The Rubble? Plus: The Ring 100, Evander Holyfield, Don King, Billy Joiner, junior welters.

Jan. 2003 (108-Page Extra): The Golden Boy Proves His Manhood: Is Oscar De La Hoya' Prime Just Beginning? Plus: Michael Grant, David Tua, previews of Morales-Ayala and Ward-Gatti II, overrated/underrated.

Feb. 2003: The Resurrection Of A Warrior: Cam Evander Holyfield Recapture The Glory Of His Youth? Also: Floyd Mayweather Sr., Nate Campbell, Tom & Peter McNeeley, boxing finances, pound-for-pound.

March 2003 (108-Page Extra): Hamed ... Morales ... Tapia: Barrera Has Punched His Ticket To The Hall Of Fame. Also: Joe Mesi, Ricardo Lopez, Pipino Cuevas, alphabet tales, what's ahead for '03.

April 2003: Gatti Has His Ducks In A Row: A New Woman And A New Trainer Put The "Art" Back In Arturo. Also: Barrera-Morales, Roy Jones, Phillip Ndou & Silence Mabuza, Laila Ali, Gorilla Jones.

May 2003 (108-Page Extra): Ali ... Leonard ... Tyson ... Klitschko? Also: Year-end awards, Chris Byrd, Lupe Pintor, Maxie Rosenbloom.

June 2003: Exclusive! The Ring Grills George Foreman. Also: Kostya Tszyu, Ricardo Mayorga, Diego Corrales, Tommy Loughran.

July 2003 (108-Page Extra): Now What, Roy? How Jones Matches Up Against The Heavyweight Elite. Also: Mike Tyson, Marquez Brothers, Ricardo Williams, Tony Zale.

Aug. 2003: The Ring Unscrambles The Heavyweight Mess. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Scott Harrison, Billy Warren, Latino revolution, cups.

Sept. 2003 (108-Page Extra): Oscar At 30: Forget About Retirement ... He Has Revenge On His Mind. Also: Mayorga-Forrest II preview, James Toney, Barney Ross, HBO, report cards.

Oct. 2003: James Toney vs. Bernard Hopkins: The Ghost Of Superfights Past. Also: De La Hoya-Mosley II preview, Jermain Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, biggest hearts.

Nov. 2003 (108-Page Extra): Healing And Hungry: Vitali Klitschko—Is He The Man To Retire Lewis? Also: Gatti-Ward III, Holyfield-Toney, Dominick Guinn, Lee Roy Murphy, The Ring 100.

Jan. 2004 (108-Page Extra): Shane-Oscar II: The 10 Questions You Want Answered! Also: Laila Ali, Mark Johnson, Jimmy McClarnin, The Ring championship, broke boxers, division-by-division analysis.

March 2004 (108-Page Extra): Audley Harrison, Dominick Guinn, Joe Mesi: Who Will Be The Next Star Heavyweight? Also: Floyd Mayweather, Arturo Gatti, Erik Morales, what's ahead for 2004.

April 2004: Antonio Tarver: "It's Not About Roy Jones Anymore." Also: Pacquiao-Barrera, Floyd Mayweather, all punch/no chin, Rinty Monaghan.

May 2004 (108-Page Extra): James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Also: Year-end awards, Mosley-Wright preview, King's "Night Of The Undisputed," boxing politicians.

June 2004: The Lewis Retirment: Will He Come Back? Also: Scott Pemberton, Jones-Tarver preview, James McGirt, James J. Braddock.

July 2004 (100-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Also: Erik Morales, Howard Eastman, Marco Antonio Barrera, Hank Hankinson, middleweights.

Summer 2004: Squeezed Out: Is There A Superfight For Felix Trinidad? Also: Joe Mesi, Miguel Cotto, Winky Wright, Ceferino Garcia.

October 2004 (100-Page Extra): The Executioner: There's No Escape For De La Hoya! Also: Verno Phillips, Jose Luis Castillo, Felix Sturm, James Toney, Jeff Lacy, one-punch kayos

Fall 2004: Trinidad vs. Mayorga: Comeback Or Calamity. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Marco Antonio Barrera, Juan Diaz, Jimmy Clabby.

☐ Feb/83	☐ Jul/86	☐ Mar/89	☐ Nov/92	☐ Jan/98	☐ Jun/00	☐ Oct/02
☐ Aug/83	☐ Aug/86	☐ May/89	**All 4 $18**	☐ Feb/98	☐ Jul/00	☐ Nov/02
☐ Sep/83	☐ Sep/86	**All 4 $18**		☐ Mar/98	☐ Aug/00	**All 9 $34**
☐ Nov/83	☐ Dec/86		☐ Feb/93	☐ Apr/98	☐ Sep/00	
All 4 $18	**All 7 $28**	☐ Feb/90	☐ Apr/93	☐ Jul/98	☐ Oct/00	☐ Jan/03
		☐ Mar/90	☐ May/93	☐ Aug/98	☐ Dec/00	☐ Feb/03
☐ Feb/84	☐ May/87	☐ Apr/90	**All 3 $14**	☐ Sep/98	**All 10 $37**	☐ Mar/03
☐ Jun/84	☐ Jun/87	☐ May/90		☐ Oct/98		☐ Apr/03
☐ Jul/84	☐ Jul/87	☐ Jun/90	☐ Aug/94	**All 8 $31**	☐ Feb/01	☐ May/03
☐ Aug/84	☐ Sep/87	☐ Jul/90	☐ Dec/94		☐ Mar/01	☐ Jun/03
☐ Oct/84	☐ Nov/87	☐ Aug/90		☐ Jan/99	☐ Apr/01	☐ Jul/03
All 5 $22	☐ Dec/87	☐ Sep/90	☐ Jan/95	☐ Feb/99	☐ May/01	☐ Aug/03
	All 6 $25	☐ Nov/90	☐ May/95	☐ Mar/99	☐ Jun/01	☐ Sep/03
☐ Jan/85		☐ Dec/90	☐ Oct/95	☐ Apr/99	☐ Jul/01	☐ Oct/03
☐ Feb/85	☐ Jan/88	**All 10 $37**	**All 3 $14**	☐ May/99	☐ Aug/01	☐ Nov/03
☐ Mar/85	☐ Feb/88			☐ Jun/99	☐ Sep/01	**All 11 $40**
☐ May/85	☐ Mar/88	☐ Jan/91	☐ Jan/96	☐ Jul/99	☐ Oct/01	
☐ Jun/85	☐ Apr/88	☐ Apr/91	☐ Feb/96	☐ Aug/99	☐ Dec/01	☐ Jan/04
☐ Aug/85	☐ May/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Sep/96	☐ Sep/99	**All 10 $37**	☐ Mar/04
☐ Oct/85	☐ Sep/88	☐ Jul/91	☐ Nov/96	☐ Dec/99		☐ Apr/04
☐ Nov/85	☐ Oct/88	☐ Aug/91	☐ Dec/96	☐ Hol/99	☐ Jan/02	☐ May/04
☐ Dec/85	☐ Nov/88	☐ Oct/91	**All 5 $22**	**All 11 $40**	☐ Mar/02	☐ Jun/04
All 9 $34	**All 8 $31**	**All 6 $25**			☐ May/02	☐ Jul/04
			☐ Jun/97	☐ Jan/00	☐ Jun/02	☐ Sum/04
☐ Jan/86		☐ May/92	☐ Oct/97	☐ Mar/00	☐ Jul/02	☐ Oct/04
☐ May/86	☐ Jan/89	☐ Jul/92	☐ Nov/97	☐ Apr/00	☐ Aug/02	☐ Fall/04
☐ Jun/86	☐ Feb/89	☐ Sep/92	**All 3 $14**	☐ May/00	☐ Sep/02	**All 9 $34**

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: __/__ (MO/YR)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

7005/8-04

U.S. TEAM WARDS OFF DISASTER IN ATHENS

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Standing tall: A flag-draped Andre Ward has his arm raised after beating favored Magomed Aripgadjiev of Belarus for the United States' lone gold medal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. Ward's victory was in the light heavyweight division.

By Robert Cassidy

On the final day of competition at the Summer Olympics in Athens, the U.S. boxing team was facing its second consecutive gold medal shutout.

Oh, how the mighty have fallen.

The glory days of 1976, '84, and '88 were a haunting reminder of just how poorly the Americans had performed. In Athens, the last remaining hope was light heavyweight Andre Ward. He turned out to be the right man in the right situation.

Ward, his right eye swollen, trailed 9-7 after two rounds. Belarus' Magomed Aripgadjiev was controlling the fight with his jab. Ward had been a notorious slow starter in the Games, but he finally realized he was quicker than his opponent and began launching his own left jab. By the end of round three, he was ahead 14-11. The fourth round was a test of wills and jabs. As the fighters grew more tired, the fight became a sloppy affair of lunging jabs. But Ward, fighting to chants of "USA, USA, USA," never let up, securing a 20-13 victory and a gold medal.

It was a nice effort, a fight that was pleasing because of resolve, rather than skill. It was worthy of praise, but not indicative of a bright future in pro boxing.

The Olympic boxing venue was a place once besieged by American promoters and managers. But none of the top boxing figures here ventured to Athens.

"I don't think we're missing out on anything," said Carl Moretti, the matchmaker for Main Events.

It's not even that the lack of talent has diminished the attraction of the Olympic boxing competition; there are other reasons the tournament is flawed. The computer scoring system, implemented after Roy Jones was robbed at the 1988 Olympics, continues to baffle observers. For a punch to count, it must be recorded on a computer simultaneously by three of the five ringside judges. Television viewers routinely witnessed punches land, but did not see that fighter's scoreboard tally rise.

The mystery of computer scoring comes under more fire when the combatants exchange a volley of quick and sometimes wild punches. In amateur boxing, that is a frequent occurrence, yet scoring with two or three punches in a flurry rarely results in more than one point. And although International Olympic Committee rules state that a punch landed to the torso or midsection is considered a scoring blow, bodypunches counted for few points in Athens.

Starting with the 2000 Olympics, the bouts were changed from three, three-minute rounds to four, two-minute rounds. That change works against a fighter with good endurance, one

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Ward fires a right at Aripgadjiev en route to a come-from-behind victory. Despite the lucrative pro contracts former American gold medal winners have received, none of the major U.S. promoters attended the '04 Games and no huge signing bonuses are expected for any of this year's U.S. squad.

who has the stamina to press his attack that extra minute. And while the scoring was displayed to the television commentators, it was not supposed to be available to the fighters or cornermen. Nevertheless, word was often sent back to the corner after each round. Thus, when a fighter had a lead late in the fight, the fourth round often became a track meet, further marginalizing the competitiveness of the bouts.

Also working against the American fighters was the internal conflict about what they want to achieve. This may be the biggest single issue that plagued the fighters. Each one of them was earnestly striving for a medal. But their reasons are generally so they can launch a successful pro career. Most U.S. amateurs see Olympic boxing as a steppingstone, not the summit. Therefore, there is not enough emphasis placed on developing a style that will afford success in the Olympics, as opposed to the pro ranks.

After the 2000 Games in Sydney, promoter Lou DiBella had a working relationship with six U.S. Olympians and at least two foreign Olympic fighters. He did not go to Athens. Some of it had to do with the low expectations of the U.S. Olympic squad.

"The Olympic style of boxing and the Olympic scoring system have no translation on how good you will be as a pro," said DiBella. "As a result, a lot of kids who lose at the Olympic trials or who lose in the nationals are as good or better than the kids who go to the Olympics. They can turn out to be better pros."

Some of it also had to do with the bleak future of boxing on television.

PATIENT TO A FAULT?

The 2000 U.S. Olympic boxing team owns the distinction of being the first class of American boxers since the 1948 Games that failed to capture a gold medal. They are also falling off the pace as professionals.

For the first time since the '72 team, a member of a U.S. Olympic boxing team had yet to win a pro title, or even fight for one, before the start of the next Olympics. Super middleweight Jeff Lacy, who did not medal in Sydney, will be the first of his classmates to fight for a title. He is scheduled to challenge Syd Vanderpool for the vacant IBF super middleweight belt in the fall.

The 2000 team has had its share of disappointments. Heavyweight and team captain Michael Bennett was knocked out four times in a 14-bout pro career and is retired. Ricardo Williams Jr., the silver medalist who seemed to be a can't-miss prospect, has suffered several injuries, gone through a pair of trainers, has a 9-2 record, and been indicted on drug dealing charges.

"I think we all thought there were more kids with a chance to be stars," said promoter Lou DiBella. "This may sound self-serving, but it appears the only one with superstar potential is Jermain Taylor."

Taylor, a middleweight who won bronze in Sydney, is 21-0 (16) as a pro and is closing in on a title fight.

"Jermain will likely fight for a mandatory position in his next fight," said DiBella. "He will be the mandatory challenger for the winner of the De La Hoya-Hopkins fight."

DiBella also works with junior bantamweight Jose Navarro, who is 20-0 (8), and the mandatory challenger for WBC titleholder Katsushige Kawashima. "Jose has been the mandatory challenger, but the champion is waiting until the last possible minute to fight him. His mandatory is up January."

It may not necessarily be a poor reflection on the Class of 2000 that none of its members has even challenged for a title yet.

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

2000 silver medalist Ricardo Williams has been a total flop as a pro

"You just can't sell the fighters," DiBella added. "Right now, with ESPN not buying fights anymore and HBO and Showtime not expressing an interest in Olympic fighters, how do you develop a fighter? You can't sell an American kid, how are you going to sell a kid who doesn't speak English?"

The one American fighter who appears to have most people sold, including DiBella and Moretti, is middleweight Andre Dirrell, who won a bronze medal. Dirrell fights with more aggression than the typical Olympic fighter. He also throws meaningful punches in bunches, rather than superficial flurries. In his medal-clinching win against Cuban Yordani Despaigne, Dirrell actually scored with a multi-punch combination that accounted for three points. (That the judges acknowledged it and recorded it is perhaps the biggest upset of the games.) Dirrell began boxing at the age of 10 and has long been tutored by his grandfather, Leon Lawson, who was once a sparring partner for Muhammad Ali.

There is, however, something to be said for Ward, who signed with James Prince after the Games. Ward is 20 and has not lost a fight since he was 14. The kid is a winner. En route to the gold medal, he defeated two-time defending light heavyweight world champion Evgeny Makarenko from Russia in the quarterfinals, and in the semis he defeated last year's middleweight world champion, Utkirbek Haydarov of Uzbekistan.

On the American team, there seemed to be more compelling stories than fighters. Ward dedicated the gold medal to the memory of his father, Frank Ward, who died unexpectedly in August of 2002. His father taught him to box at the age of nine, and Andre has his father's name tattooed on each forearm.

At junior welterweight, Rock Allen returned to competition after being disqualified at the 2000 trials when his brother, Tiger, weighed in for him. There was no such controversy this time, but in Athens, Allen, who had been projected to win a bronze medal by *Sports Illustrated*, was knocked down in the first round and fell behind 8-1 to Bulgaria's Boris Georgiev. He never recovered and lost 30-10.

Ron Siler, a flyweight who two years ago was in prison for assault, had been the inspiration much the way Michael Bennett was on the 2000 team. Siler turned his life around and hoped a gold medal would help secure a lucrative future in pro boxing for him and his five sons. Still, Siler will have to

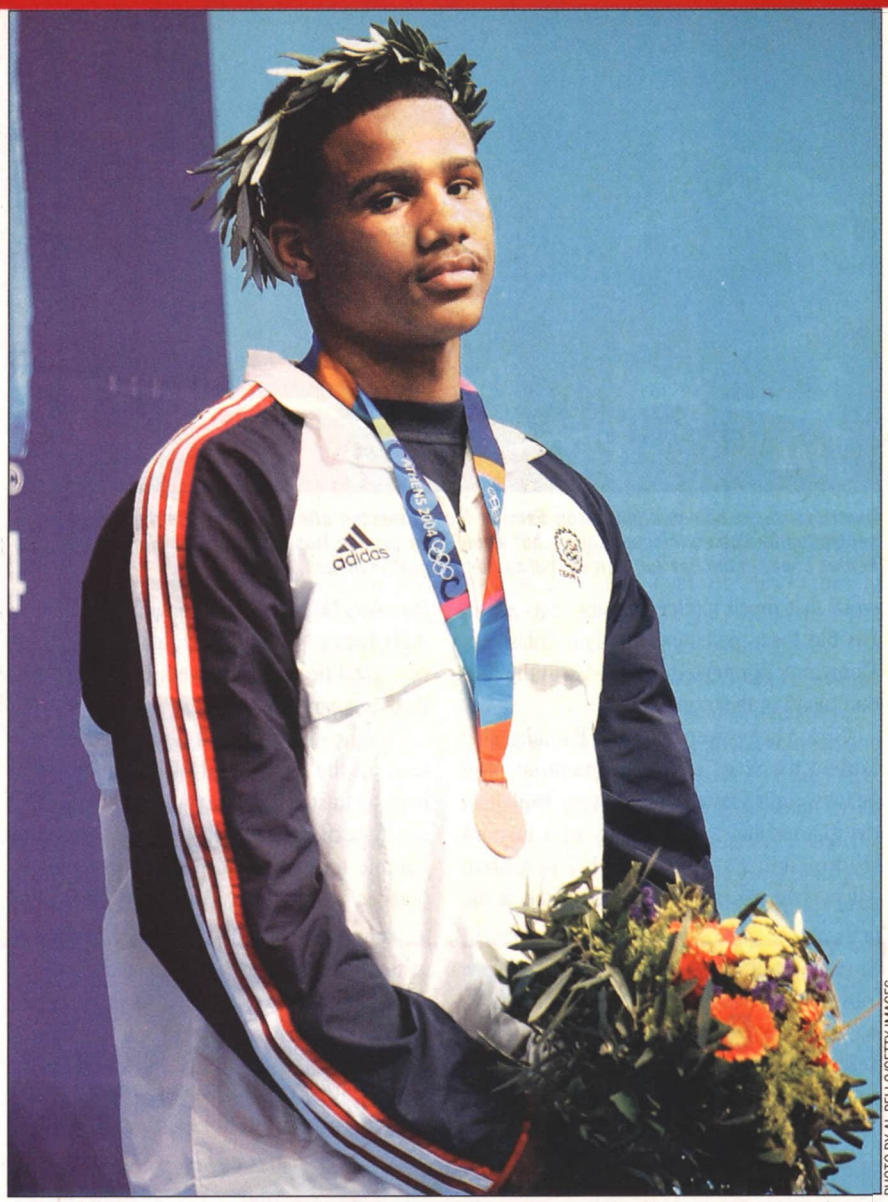


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Middleweight Andre Dirrell, one of only two U.S. boxers to bring home a medal, models the bronze he won in Athens. Although he didn't go all the way to the finals, losing to Genneday Golovkin of Kazakhstan in the semis, some think Dirrell might be a better pro prospect than Ward.

"I think that's the way it should be," said Carl Moretti, the matchmaker for Main Events, which promotes Rocky Juarez. "I know there is pressure sometimes for a manager or a promoter to get a return on their investment. And the kids want it, too. But putting a fighter in a title fight early is not necessarily the way you want to develop a fighter."

Juarez, a featherweight, won a silver medal in 2000 and has a 21-0 (14) pro record. "His progress has been steady," said Moretti. "He's stepped up each time and fought good opponents. It's been more than I can ask for."

DiBella adds that it's not always talent that determines how quickly a fighter reaches a title fight.

"It's usually one or two kids who get to the title quickly," said DiBella. "There are so many different things that can go into developing a fighter. The weight class, the competition in that weight class, the television exposure are all factors. It takes time to develop a fighter."

—RC

PHOTO BY JOE KLAMAR/GETTY IMAGES

American super heavyweight Jason Estrada looks dejected after being eliminated from medal contention by Cuba's Michael Lopez, but would later say the loss didn't bother him. Estrada had beaten Lopez in the Pan Am Games, but couldn't repeat in Athens.

work that much harder to make it as a pro. His bid for a medal ended when Tulashboy Doniyorov dominated him 45-22 in the second round of the tournament.

Super heavyweight Jason Estrada, also tabbed by *SI* as a bronze medalist, and heavyweight Devin Vargas were beaten in the quarterfinals, a round shy of a guaranteed medal. Estrada lost 21-7 to Cuban Michael Lopez, whom he had beaten at the Pan Am Games. The talented but distressingly heavy New England fighter then created a great deal of controversy by saying that he didn't care that he'd lost.

Vargas did care, but he injured his left knee in the first round of his quarterfinal bout against Viktar Zuyev of Belarus. The injury turned him from boxer to brawler. Unable to employ his lateral movement, Vargas was simply forced to slug with Zuyev. It was not what he planned, and it showed. It was heartbreaking to watch as he took a standing eight-count and lost 36-27.

Among the other Americans who did not reach the quarterfinals were junior flyweight Rau'shee Warren, welterweight Vanes Martirosyan, and lightweight Vicente Escobedo. Martirosyan and Escobedo both lost in the second round, while Warren was bounced in the first round by eventual medalist Zou Shiming.

After a relatively disappointing showing at the last two Olympics, the vaunted Cuban boxing team regained some of its luster. The tiny island nation sent seven fighters to the finals and had an opportunity to equal the seven gold medals it won in Barcelona in 1992. Cuba came away with five golds, two silvers, and a bronze to lead the competition with eight medals.

Mario Kindelan, the 33-year-old defending Olympic champion, decisioned British teenage star Amir Khan to win the lightweight division, then retired after the tournament. Kindelan, a southpaw, is reminiscent of Pernell Whitaker. He's smart, quick, and a pinpoint counterpuncher. The same could be said of Guillermo Rigondeaux, another

2004 OLYMPIC BOXING MEDALISTS

Light Flyweight
Gold: Yan Bartelamy, Cuba
Silver: Atagun Yalcinkaya, Turkey
Bronze: Zou Shiming, China
Bronze: Sergei Kazakov, Russia

Flyweight
Gold: Yuriorkis Gamboa, Cuba
Silver: Jerome Thomas, France
Bronze: Fuad Aslanov, Azerbaijan
Bronze: Rustamhodza Rahimov, Germany

Bantamweight
Gold: Guillermo Rigondeaux, Cuba
Silver: Worapoj Petchkoom, Thailand
Bronze: Aghasi Mammadov, Azerbaijan
Bronze: Bahodirjon Sooltonov, Uzbekistan

Featherweight
Gold: Alexei Tichtchenko, Russia
Silver: Kim Guk Song, North Korea
Bronze: Vitaly Tajbert, Germany
Bronze: Jo Hwan Seok, South Korea

Lightweight
Gold: Mario Kindelan, Cuba
Silver: Amir Khan, Great Britain
Bronze: Serik Yelevov, Kazakhstan
Bronze: Murat Khrachev, Russia

Light Welterweight
Gold: Manus Boonjumnong, Thailand
Silver: Yudel Johnson, Cuba
Bronze: Boris Georgiev, Bulgaria
Bronze: Ionut Gheorghe, Romania

Welterweight
Gold: Bakhtiyar Artayev, Kazakhstan
Silver: Lorenzo Aragon, Cuba
Bronze: Kim Joo Jung, South Korea
Bronze: Oleg Saitov, Russia

Middleweight
Gold: Gaydarbek Gayderbekov, Russia
Silver: Genneday Golovkin, Kazakhstan
Bronze: Suriya Prasathinphimai, Thailand
Bronze: Andre Dirrell, United States

Light Heavyweight
Gold: Andre Ward, United States
Silver: Magomed Aripgadjiev, Belarus
Bronze: Ahmed Ismail, Egypt
Bronze: Utkirbek Haydarov, Uzbekistan

Heavyweight
Gold: Odlanier Solis, Cuba
Silver: Viktar Zuyev, Belarus
Bronze: Mohamed Elsayed, Egypt
Bronze: Naser Al Shami, Syria

Super Heavyweight,
Gold: Aleksander Povetkin, Russia
Silver: Mohamed Aly, Egypt
Bronze: Michael Lopez, Cuba
Bronze: Roberto Cammarellé, Italy

PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES

Although he had to settle for a silver medal, 17-year-old Amir Khan of Great Britain looked to have all the qualities of a future star. As we went to press, the lightweight sensation still hadn't decided if he was turning pro or staying amateur until the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Cuban southpaw, who at the age of 23 has already captured his second gold medal. He outpointed Thailand's Worapoj Petchkoom, 22-13, in the bantamweight finals.

While Cuban legends Teofilio Stevenson and Felix Savon were noted for their power, these Cubans masterfully exploited the amateur scoring system with speed, endurance, and movement. The Cuban fighters in Athens generally fought with their hands down, picked opponents apart with crisp jabs or lunging counters, and had the ability to stay mobile for the duration of their bouts.

The political policy in communist Cuba assures that none of them will turn pro unless they defect. And of those who have defected in recent years, only Joel Casamayor has had serious impact on pro boxing. Others, like Jorge Luis Gonzalez and Ramon Garbey, have been disappointing.

"Look at Mexico," said Moretti. "They never have a dominant Olympic team, they never medal, and yet they turn out great pro fighters. I know some of it has to do with the fact that they turn pro very young. But then look at the Cuban team. They dominate, but I think that Joel Casamayor is the only Cuban Olympian who has become a good pro."

The Mexican team could send a pair fighters into the pro ranks immediately. Abner Mares, an 18-year-old bantamweight, and Juan De Dios Navarro, a 20-year-old junior welterweight, were both touted as top pro prospects by NBC commentator and trainer Teddy Atlas.

Although Khan lost to Kindelan, he emerged as one of the stars of the games. He's only 17 and as of this writing vowed to go for gold in Beijing four years from now. That could change when the lucrative offers to turn pro start pouring in. Khan boxed with an impressive balance of discipline and tenacity that is not often seen in tandem during amateur competitions. He appeared fundamentally sound and was able to step up his attack without losing his composure.

Some of the best pro prospects did not even make it to the medal round. Atlas also hailed Alexander Maletin, known as "The Russian Tank," as a fighter with a future.

Maletin won a bronze medal in Sydney and is a three-time European champion. He moved up in weight so he would no longer have to face the slick Kindelan. He was a gold-medal favorite heading into Athens, but was eliminated by another sharpshooter, Willy Blain of France. Maletin started strong, banging his way to a points lead after two rounds. But Blain remained composed and outpointed Maletin, 28-20. The Russian was clearly the aggressor and it appeared his bodypunches went unnoticed by the judges.

"He looked like he'd be a great pro," said Moretti. "He lost to the kid from France because he was outboxed. But he just keeps coming and coming."

Although he was defeated in the first round, another good pro could be Andre Berto, who was one of the top U.S. amateurs in the welterweight division. Berto was beaten at the U.S. Olympic trials and then represented Haiti, the birthplace of his mother, in Athens. Typically, his swarming attack and audacity to throw bodypunches didn't win many points with the judges.

In signing off from Athens, Atlas summed up America's boxing quandary.

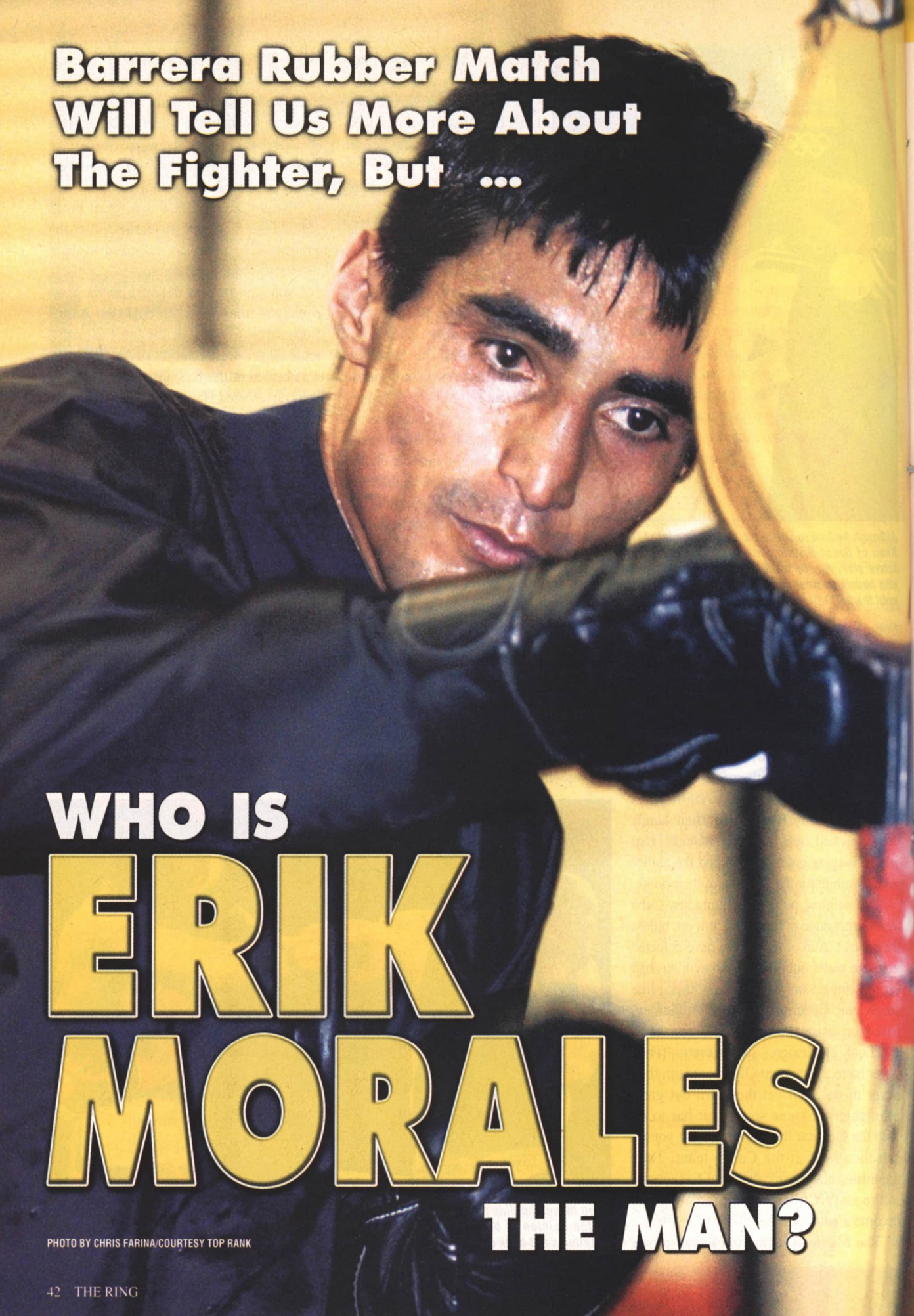
"The Americans might have been the most talented fighters here," Atlas said. "But it's not about talent. It's about style. It's about understanding that style and the scoring system. We produce good pro fighters. To us, amateur boxing is like the minor leagues for professional boxing. We have to decide what we want. Good pro boxers or good Olympic teams. Until we decide, things probably won't change much." ■

Robert Cassidy is a former associate editor of this magazine and a regular contributor.

PHOTO BY JOE KLAMAR/GETTY IMAGES

Even though he didn't make it to the medal rounds, Alexander "The Russian Tank" Maletin would, in the opinion of broadcaster Teddy Atlas, make an excellent pro. Maletin (left) is pictured planting a left hook on Saleh Khoulef's jaw en route to a stoppage win in a preliminary match.

Barrera Rubber Match Will Tell Us More About The Fighter, But ...



WHO IS ERIK MORALES THE MAN?

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/COURTESY TOP RANK

By William Dettloff

After brilliantly whipping Carlos Hernandez in July, Erik Morales, who is one of the best practitioners of this sport there is, went politely before the cameras, as he always does, and said all the things he always says. He was bruised and red-faced and blood-spotted, but gracious and succinct.

Morales said what he did and then was gone. Back to Tijuana we had to assume, to whatever it is he does there. Gone completely until the next time. Like always. It will be the same, win or lose, after he faces rival Marco Antonio Barrera on November 27 in their rubber match. Whether or not we discover finally then which is the better fighter, we'll know no more about Morales—the person, not the fighter—than we did before.

During the short time we have with them, we get to know both a great deal and nothing at all about the fighters who thrill us, who bore us, who inspire us. When they are in the ring we see what is inside of them; we see their strengths, their depravities, their courage, their cowardice. We see their breeding and dedication, their hearts and their frailties. We see them robbed or sometimes coddled, and we see them brutalized. We see what's inside of them, for better or worse. We can't help but see it.

Then the fight ends. They come before the cameras, bleeding into our living rooms and maybe onto the microphone, and they get a few seconds to tell us a short story about why they failed or didn't and what they plan to do next. All that is supposed to permit us to get to know them a little before they leave. They get a "congratulations, champ," or, in the alternative, a patronizing stare in reply to their myriad justifications or complaints. Then they're gone, out through the ropes again, and suddenly we realize that for all we know about them, we know precious little.

Whenever Morales leaves the ring, we have only what we saw while he was there to go by, which is, as always, both too much and too little. That he speaks no English and ventures out of his beloved Tijuana only when necessary is a further impediment to getting to know him. And a prize fighter as good as the 47-1 (34) three-division titlist Morales deserves to be known—by everyone.

It is the little things we know about them that remind us that fighters are human, and Morales is no different. For example, he is fearful of flying in airplanes, according to Jose Luis Gomez Camarillo of *Esto*, a top sports magazine in Mexico. Camarillo has covered Morales since before Morales destroyed Daniel Zaragoza. He told THE RING that Morales flies anyway, which is a necessity—his schedule when he's not fighting makes Oscar De La Hoya, he of the reality

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Morales picked up the WBC super featherweight title with a hard-fought decision over Jesus Chavez in February 2004. Although Morales landed a lot of flush punches, such as this left hook, he also took his share of blows before prevailing via unanimous decision.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Morales demonstrates terrific form delivering this right hand to Carlos Hernandez' ribs en route to a 12-round decision and the IBF 130-pound belt in July. Hernandez gave it everything he had, but just couldn't match Morales in the power department.

shows, pop records, and other numerous business ventures, look like a slacker.

"Erik isn't one of these guys you'll see hanging around the office in between fights," agreed Top Rank Latino publicist Ricardo Jiminez. "He's always doing something. He likes to stay very busy, whether it's working toward who he's going to fight next, or some other business, he's always very busy, moving toward something. He's always on the move."

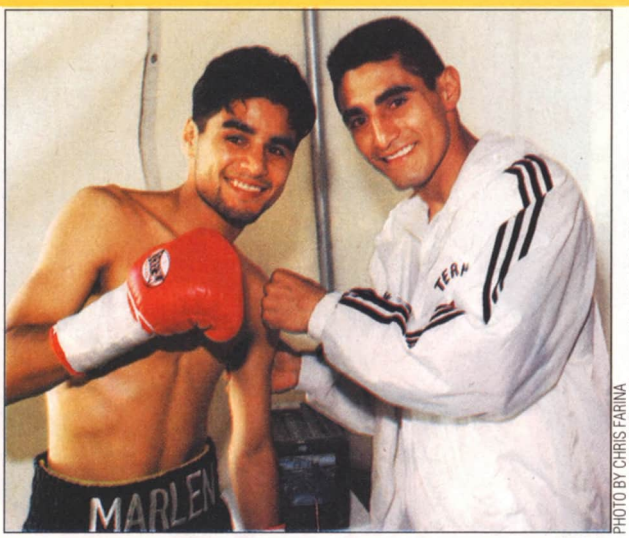


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Among Morales' business interests is a stable of fighters, which includes his bantamweight brother, Diego, who is 32-2 (24) as a pro.

What's he doing all the time? Among other things, promoting the ever-growing stable of fighters in the promotional outfit he co-owns with manager Fernando Beltran, Box Latino Promotions. The stable includes, among many, his brother, bantamweight contender Diego Morales, and top-rated junior flyweight Jorge Arce. He owns a related Web site, boxlatino.com, one of the leading Mexico-based boxing sites, and also promotes musical acts: Nico Flores y su Banda Mazatlan and Mario "Cachorro" Delgado. Delgado, in fact, sang the Mexican Anthem when Morales fought Hernandez. The acts play a regional type of music strongly associated with Tijuana and the surrounding areas.

There are other business interests, including a sponsorship with several beer distributors, and an endorsement deal with the Athletica clothing line. He's a ubiquitous presence in Mexico. "Morales is everywhere," said Jiminez. "On commercials on the biggest television station, holding press conferences when he comes down from the mountains before a big fight. Everyone knows who he is because they see him all the time." It's made him among the most popular contemporary Mexican athletes, but does it mean he's grown more popular than his nemesis, Barrera?

"It is hard to say who is more popular, Erik Morales or Marco Antonio Barrera, but Barrera lost most of his popularity when being badly defeated by Manny Pacquiao," said Camarillo. "At present time, most of the people talk and ask about Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. more than any other Mexican champion."

Either way, Morales is busy. According to Jiminez, in roughly a one-week period around the time this article was written, Morales promoted a fight card that took place in a small town that's about a six- or seven-hour car ride from Tijuana. Then he went to see his band do a small tour in the same area. Following that, he went to Tijuana to handle some business matter or another. Then he went up to the mountains to assist his brother in training camp.

"He looks at it this way," Jiminez said. "If he's going to put his money into something, he's going to make sure it works and that everyone involved is doing what they're supposed to do. He doesn't stop. He's always looking for ways to better himself and his fighters. He knows that he's hot now and he's taking advantage of it."

MORALES-BARRERA: THIRD IS THE WORD

The single wonderful, telling, and perhaps most promising element to the Morales-Barrera rubber match is the fact that it was made at all. It shows again, as though anyone required reminding, the kind of prize fighters these two are. Neither needed this fight. Both had options—lots of them in the spectacularly top-heavy featherweight and junior lightweight divisions. Most of those options would have been nearly as lucrative. These two chose one another—again. You have to love them for it.

To a lot of fighters, the first two meetings in this series would have been enough. In the first, of course, Morales was awarded a close, almost universally disputed verdict in a fight so good it was named THE RING's 2000 Fight of the Year. The second, which took place in June 2002, wasn't the same type of war—Barrera chose to box early, giving away some of the early rounds—but resulted in a similarly disputed decision win, this time for Barrera. By the reasoning of many, both decisions went to the wrong guys, but so long as it evened out, what's the difference?

The big question here may involve which guy is better or worse now than he was the last time these two met. Consider: Since their last meeting, Morales has gone 6-0 (3), beating Paulie Ayala (W 12), Eddie Croft (KO 3), Fernando Velardez (KO 5), Guty Espadas (KO 3), Jesus Chavez (W 12) and Carlos Hernandez (W 12).

In the three wins over legitimate world-class competition, Morales was something just short of brilliant, taking apart Ayala piece by piece, surviving an early scare to convincingly defeat an admittedly compromised Chavez, then outclassing Hernandez. This may be the best Morales we've seen and, probably not coincidentally, the least explosive; at junior lightweight (which is the weight at which the rubber match will be

That's not to say Morales is stingy with his money. But he is smart with it, especially when helping others. "Morales is a noble man and has no evil in his heart," said Camarillo. "He uses money to help his friends who are in trouble, with medical expenses for example, but he finds out details before giving his money away."

Much too is spent on Morales' family; he has three children and has been in a long relationship with their mother, whom he calls, according to Camarillo, "Mi Chinita," which, roughly translated, means looking Chinese.

Morales isn't the first fighter to be a doting father and family man, but it is hard to square to a degree that image with the one we have of the fighter we've seen so many times, going to war with Barrera, Hernandez, Jesus Chavez, Zaragoza, Wayne McCullough, Paulie Ayala, and others. We've never seen him in a bad fight, and you have to wonder, after an 11-year pro career and almost 50 fights, how he stays so acutely motivated every time out. Jiminez knows.

"He has to find something about the guy to get him mad. It has to be personal with him. He has to make sure he's properly motivated. It's always something. Carlos Hernandez was very nice before their fight—all he and his camp would say was what a great fighter Erik is and a great champion. So Erik turned it around. He said, 'They're saying all these things about me so I let down my guard so they can beat me.' That did it for him in that fight. That was his motivation. He gets into those moods. It's like clockwork. By the time of the fight, he hates the other guy."

Still, according to Camarillo, Morales "pays respect to all his opponents, except Barrera," who insulted him—Barrera called him "El Risible" instead of "El Terrible" ("Risible" means someone or something that causes laughing)—and hit him when Morales was unprepared in a press conference to hype their second fight. The bitter history between the two, attributed in the main to competition and resentment between Mexico City, Barrera's stronghold, and Tijuana, Morales' home base, is well-documented. But Barrera seems the only fighter to have truly gotten under Morales' skin.

Kevin Kelley, whom Morales destroyed in seven rounds in 2000, recalls an exchange more in line with the gentleman

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Morales: Ready for rubber match

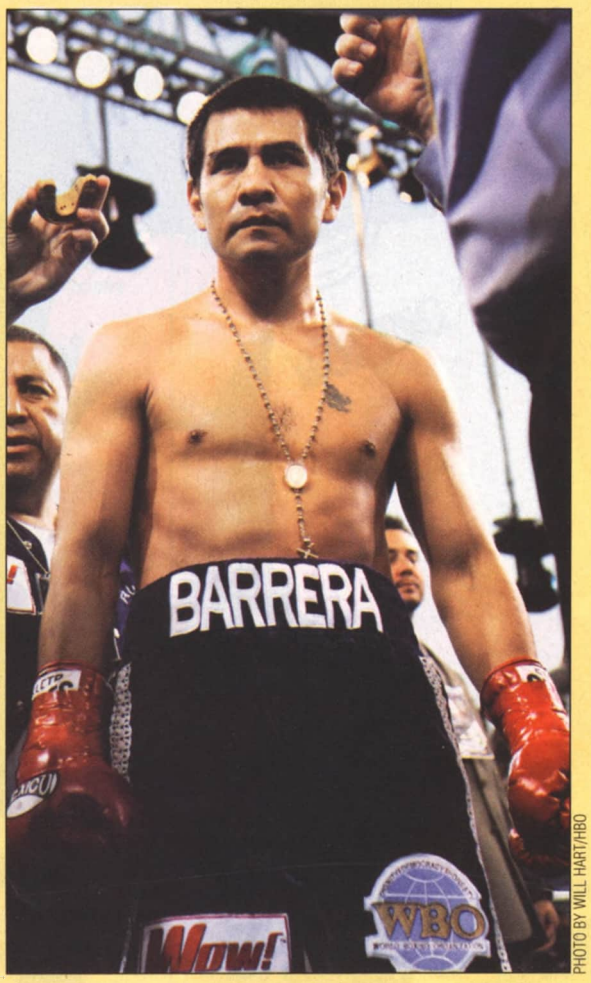


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Barrera: The only opponent Morales really dislikes

fought), he's finally at a comfortable weight but doesn't carry the same pop. Apparently it's okay, though. He doesn't need it.

Barrera, meanwhile, has gone 3-1 (2) since the second Morales fight. He also had a pair of gimmes—against Johnny Tapia (W 12) and Kevin Kelley (KO 4). Then came disaster—the drubbing by Manny Pacquiao (KO by 11) that relieved Barrera of the world featherweight title. The big question surrounding Barrera afterward—was he shot?—was answered sufficiently enough when he, too, demolished poor Ayala, and did his rival one better by stopping him in the 10th round.

We saw no evidence of gun-shyness in Barrera, 58-4 (41), against Ayala, no poisonous dearth of self-belief that so often follows a long beating and knockout loss (indeed, he wouldn't have agreed to face Morales again otherwise). He was the same calculating killer we've seen for the last couple of years. He'd been saying for months that the loss to Pacquiao represented nothing more than an off-night. That may or may not be true. What is clear is he's still a world-class fighter and one of the best there is. Fortunately for us, so too is Morales. Maybe this time, we'll finally find out which is superior.

—WD

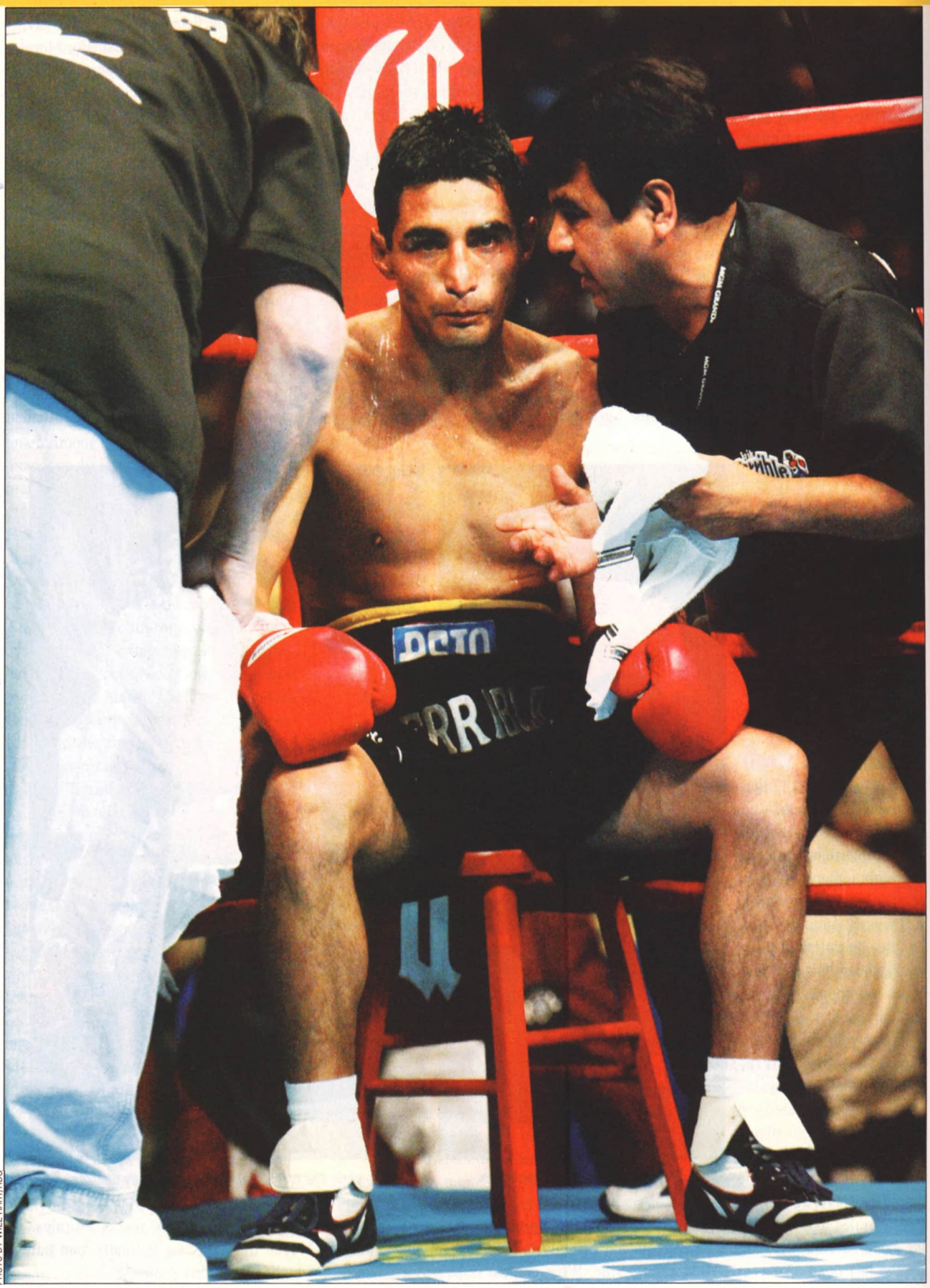


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Morales' father, Joes "Olivaritos" Morales, gives his son advice between rounds during the Hernandez fight in July 2004. Morales briefly split with his father after he divorced his mother a few years ago, but Jose is now back in his son's corner.

PHOTO BY KAZUMICHI HAYASHI

Morales waves the Mexican flag following a victory in his native Tijuana. When he's not fighting, Morales, who never bothered to learn English, spends almost all of his time in his home country.

warrior image Morales often conveys.

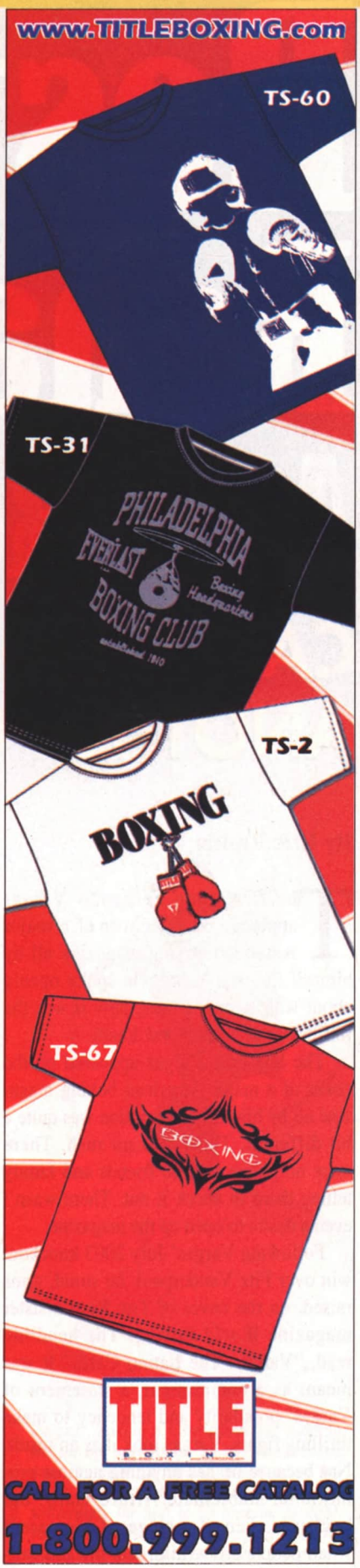
"We were at a press conference in Mexico before our fight and there was a glass of water and a soda on the table in front of me," Kelley recalled. "I was thirsty and went to reach for the water. Erik shook his head, pushed the water away from me, and pointed to the soda. You know what they say about drinking the water in Mexico. He didn't want me to get sick."

There are those who suggest that Morales would do better to spend some time outside Mexico, the quality of the drinking water notwithstanding. Conventional thinking says you're not the biggest star you can be unless you're a star in the United States. It's a common theme: This or that fighter from Mexico or Puerto Rico or some other non-English-speaking land should learn English to increase his marketability and earning potential. We heard it about Chavez, we hear it about Felix Trinidad and Barrera. We'll hear it about others too. That's not how Morales sees it, according to Jiminez.

"Sometimes people ask him why he doesn't learn to speak English so he could be bigger in America, and he says, 'Because I spend all my time in Mexico,'" Jiminez said. "He comes to the United States only when he needs to—to promote a big fight or with his band. Mexico is where he lives and does his business. He understands it would be better if he spoke English, but he doesn't need it."

It may be that willfulness that contributed to the strained relationship Morales had with his father, former fighter Jose "Olivaritos" Morales, who trains Morales and all the fighters in the Beltran/Morales stable. They nearly severed ties when Jose and Morales' mother divorced some years ago. Hard feelings in the family led to a split between the elder Morales and his fighting sons for a time, but according to Jiminez, the family patriarch is again an important member of the Morales camp.

El Terrible is a father figure himself, overseeing the training of his fighters with the same attention he gives everything else. He frequently brings his young fighters up to his camp in the mountains for a couple of weeks to show them what it's like to prepare for a big fight. If they're smart, they pay close attention. Fighters like Morales don't come around very often. It's good to get to know them when they do. ■



Rested, Rehabbed, And Ready To Roll

CAN VARGAS MAKE ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP RUN?

By Eric Raskin

The first time Fernando Vargas appeared on the cover of a major American boxing magazine all by himself, he was elated. He spoke openly about what a rush it was, how it was the fulfillment of a childhood dream.

The last time Vargas appeared on the cover of a major American boxing magazine all by himself, his reaction was quite a bit different. There was no rush. There were no phone calls to friends and family telling them to check it out. There wasn't even a desire to open up the magazine.

Following Vargas' July 2003 knockout win over Fitz Vanderpool, he stood, arms raised, on the cover of THE RING's sister magazine *World Boxing*. The headline read, "Vargas: The Latino Gatti." It was meant as a compliment, a statement of Vargas' popularity and tendency to make thrilling fights. Vargas took it as an insult. Not because he has anything against promotional stablemate Arturo Gatti, but because, even at a stage of his career when people are writing him off and calling him a faded fighter, he still believes he's capable of being one of the very best in the world—a winner first, and an entertainer second.

"I'm not the Latino Gatti. I don't think that's good. I don't like that," Vargas said politely, but with obvious resentment. "I can make you miss, I can make you not be able to hit me. Look at Yory Boy Campas, look at Raul Marquez, look at Ike Quartey—those are fights where I did that. So I don't want to be flagged as the Latino Gatti. That's something that I did not like; I didn't even want to read the article. I'm not the Latino Gatti. I'd rather be the Mexican Sugar Ray."

Is Vargas delusional? Or is he just determined? We'll get a chance to find out, because there's one "d" word that doesn't describe Vargas: done.

On August 17, Vargas, who hasn't fought since December '03 because of a bulging L5 disc in his lower back, was officially cleared to continue boxing by his orthopedist, Dr. Steven J. Waltrip. After eight months of resting and rehab, the training began, with plans to return to the ring in early-2005.

That whooshing sound you heard was Vargas breathing a sigh of relief. He wasn't ready to say goodbye to this sport just 26 fights into his pro career and just 26 years into his life. "El Feroz" was a born fighter, arguably the most intense warrior of his generation, and he was extremely nervous as he awaited Dr. Waltrip's prognosis.

After all, the pain he'd felt over the last several years was severe enough that it seemed to him to be conceivably career threatening. It started not long after Vargas turned pro, but it didn't flare up often back then, and when it did, the aching was easily alleviated with a combination of Tylenol and Icee Hot. Eventually, though, the back pain was returning once a month, then once a week, then two or three times a week. By 2002, the year in which Vargas engaged in the biggest fight of his career, against sworn enemy Oscar De La Hoya, the pain was affecting his training and his fighting.

Believe it if you choose, call it a lame excuse if you'd rather, but Vargas now says his back problems played a significant role in his loss to "The Golden Boy."

"Waist movements, bobbing and weav-

PHOTO BY VINCE BUCCI/GETTY IMAGES

Vargas, looking a little above his fighting weight but very happy in this photo taken over the summer, was thrilled when the news came in that his back had healed sufficiently for him to be cleared to fight. Vargas intends to compete again in early-2005, after a layoff of more than a year.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

He didn't look great doing it, but Vargas got the job done against Fitz Vanderpool at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles in July '03. Vargas has fought only once since, turning in another subpar but sufficient performance in stopping Tony Marshall.

years of age, and I'm glad that I had some time off to rest my body, rest my mind, just *rest*. Time to be with my family, be with my kids; that to me was everything."

During that time, Vargas discovered that his back wasn't his only physical handicap. He also was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid—the endocrine gland in the neck that secretes the hormones responsible for controlling metabolism. That helped to explain Vargas' tendency to blow up in weight between fights, but he's now on medication, and his weight is more stable. With that and his back problems addressed, there was just one more issue to deal with before returning to camp: who was going to be working his corner.

While preparing for the De La Hoya fight, Vargas spoke openly about how impressed he was with his new sparring partner, welterweight prospect Ishe Smith. What he didn't speak about at the time was how impressed he was with Smith's

ing, doing that sort of stuff, it would flare up on me," Vargas said. "So it got me away from doing all that. I didn't want to do it because it would hurt my back. I would basically be fighting just standing straight up.

"In the 10th round of the De La Hoya fight, you notice I picked up my head, and that's where I got hurt. The first thing I do because I don't want to stay down low is I pick my head up right away. And that's when he caught me with a left hook at the bell. If it wasn't for that punch, De La Hoya doesn't know if he would've won that fight. It was an even fight until that point."

Vargas was stopped in the 11th, and, with his back problems worsening, hasn't looked like a championship-level fighter in his two bouts since. He stopped Vanderpool in six rounds and Tony Marshall in seven, but neither fight was quite as easy as it would've been for the Vargas of a few years earlier. The two-time former junior middleweight titlist had hoped for a quick turnaround after the Marshall fight with a significant match with Javier Castillejo just two months later, but he had to back out (pun intended). He couldn't fight. He couldn't train. He simply needed time off to rest and recuperate, then reevaluate.

"I'm glad I did that," said Vargas, 24-2 (22), in late-August, two weeks after resuming training. "I've gone through a lot at 26

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Vargas claims that his back problems were a major factor in his getting caught with a fight-turning left hook by Oscar De La Hoya two years ago. Until that punch, Vargas had looked in top form, giving De La Hoya one of the toughest fights of his career.

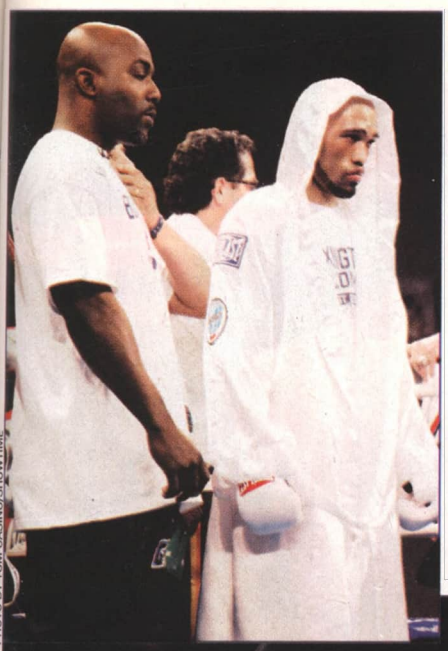


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

trainer, Danny Smith (no relation). He found Ishe extremely difficult to hit, and as he watched Danny instruct Ishe, he began to regard the unknown trainer as a defensive guru.

Nevertheless, when Vargas decided to add a new trainer to work alongside longtime coach and father figure Eduardo Garcia prior to the Vanderpool fight, he went with the well-known Buddy McGirt. The partnership went just fine, but Vargas believed there was a better fit for him out there. So as he awaited clearance to fight again, Vargas promised himself that if he got a second chance with his career, he was going to "do things right" and call Danny Smith.

"I contacted Buddy McGirt because I'm a man, not a pussy," Vargas said, never hesitant to take a dig at De La Hoya, who's developed a reputation for making others fire his trainers for him. "I thanked him for helping me with everything that he helped me with and everything he did for me, but I told him that I wanted to move on, that I was going to work with Danny Smith.

"Danny Smith is an underground trainer. I could've gone with one of the top names, Emanuel Steward, Teddy Atlas, whoever. But this is a person I have labeled as 'The Truth.' I've been here in Phoenix, Arizona, training with him for two weeks, and I've been learning things that I've really got to think about. I go back to the hotel

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

There has been a change in Vargas' corner: Danny Smith (top, with fighter Ishe Smith) will now be working alongside Vargas' longtime trainer Eduardo Garcia, while Buddy McGirt (above) is gone from the team after just two fights.

The RING

COLLECTOR'S ISSUES ARE GOING FAST!

Previously sold only on newsstands, these special issues of The Ring are now available through mail order while supplies last.

75 YEARS OF THE RING

The official souvenir magazine of The Ring's 75th Anniversary celebration traces the history of the Sweet Science during The Ring years, 1922-1997.

GREATS OF THE GAME

The Ring examines the careers of the fight game's megastars: Tyson, De La Hoya, Mosley, Jones, Trinidad, Mayweather, Barrera, Hopkins, Rahman, Hamed, Morales, Vargas. 132 all-color pages.

THE RING: CLASSIC INTERVIEWS

The Ring editors have compiled the very best of the Q&A interviews that have appeared in our family of magazines through the years: Muhammad Ali, Roy Jones, Mike Tyson, Marvin Hagler, Larry Holmes, Ray Mancini, Aaron Pryor, Jake LaMotta, and more!

ALL-TIME DREAM MATCHUPS

The editors of The Ring are proud to present a very special edition of The Ring Annual: The Greatest Fights Never Held. We select the fights .. We analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the combatants ... We tell you who will win ... All we ask you to do is use your imaginations and have a little fun!

2003: THE YEAR IN PICTURES

We've pored through thousands of photos to bring you the very best photos of 2003 in one sensational 132-page package. Join us on a look back as our men and women at ringside capture 2003's highs and low, crunching blows, and wacky sideshows.

Yes, I would like to receive The Ring specials and have enclosed a check or money order for $7, payable to London Publishing Co., for each issue I am ordering (shipping and handling included).

- ☐ 75 Years Of The Ring
- ☐ Greats Of The Game
- ☐ Classic Interviews
- ☐ All-Time Dream Matchups
- ☐ 2003: The Year In Pictures

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #_____

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature:_____

Name_____

Address_____ Apt.____

City_____ State__Zip_____

Prices apply in the U.S. only. All other countries please add $1.50 per magazine. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

6323/02-04

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Smith's top priority is to improve Vargas' defense. The little-known trainer, whom Vargas calls "The Truth," knows Vargas is going to get hit sometimes, but wants to help him avoid the big, flush punches that have accounted for his two knockout defeats.

room and write stuff down, and I close my eyes and go over it again in my head.

"I've done training before where it's all a lot of hitting the bags, just repetition. With Danny Smith, we've been hitting the pads, pure pads, pure teaching. It's *learning*. It's stepping into the ring and *learning*."

If Vargas sounds pumped about working with Smith, the "underground trainer" is just as pumped about the partnership.

"Vargas listens well. He's focused. He tries everything that you tell him to do. He's very excited, and when a fighter's excited, I'm excited, and it brings out the best in both of us," said Smith, who will be sharing corner duties with Garcia. The 39-year-old trainer from Little Rock, Arkansas, moved to Las Vegas five years ago and became an assistant to the likes of Floyd Mayweather Sr. and Kenny Adams, working with such name fighters as Diego Corrales, Steve Forbes, and Muhammad Abdullaev. He was surprised and enthusiastic when he got the call from El Feroz, knowing that Vargas' coming back could equate to his own coming out.

"I haven't been the guy out in front, I've been the guy in the back. I've been in the shadows for years, and now Vargas has given me the opportunity to come out into the spotlight," Smith said. "I may not be a big-name trainer, but this is the thing the media has to learn about trainers: The media doesn't come to the gym, they come to the fights, and sometimes trainers get credit for the things that fighters do that they had nothing to do with. Fighters go in there and they do their own thing and a trainer gets all the credit, even if he didn't actually do anything except eat some cheeseburgers and watch sparring."

Smith, who prides himself on being in shape to do all the things his fighters do, is laying off the cheeseburgers and focusing on helping Vargas avoid another whopper like the ones that did him in against De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad.

"Defense is Priority One," Smith explained. "He's already talented. And he doesn't really get hit a lot. It's just that when he does get hit, it counts. So I want to eliminate him from getting hit with big punches. He's gonna get touched; that's just boxing. But we're going to use a constant jab, a lot of feints, a lot of head movement, and a lot of thinking."

Thinking is something Vargas has had plenty of time to do of late, and he's been productive about it, pursuing numerous business opportunities outside of boxing. He's owned a total communications store in Ventura County, California, for several years, selling cell phones and satellite television packages, but he's now expanding into the worlds of fashion, music, and movies.

Vargas' urban male clothing line, Nawshis (pronounced just like "nauseous"), was unveiled at the MAGIC

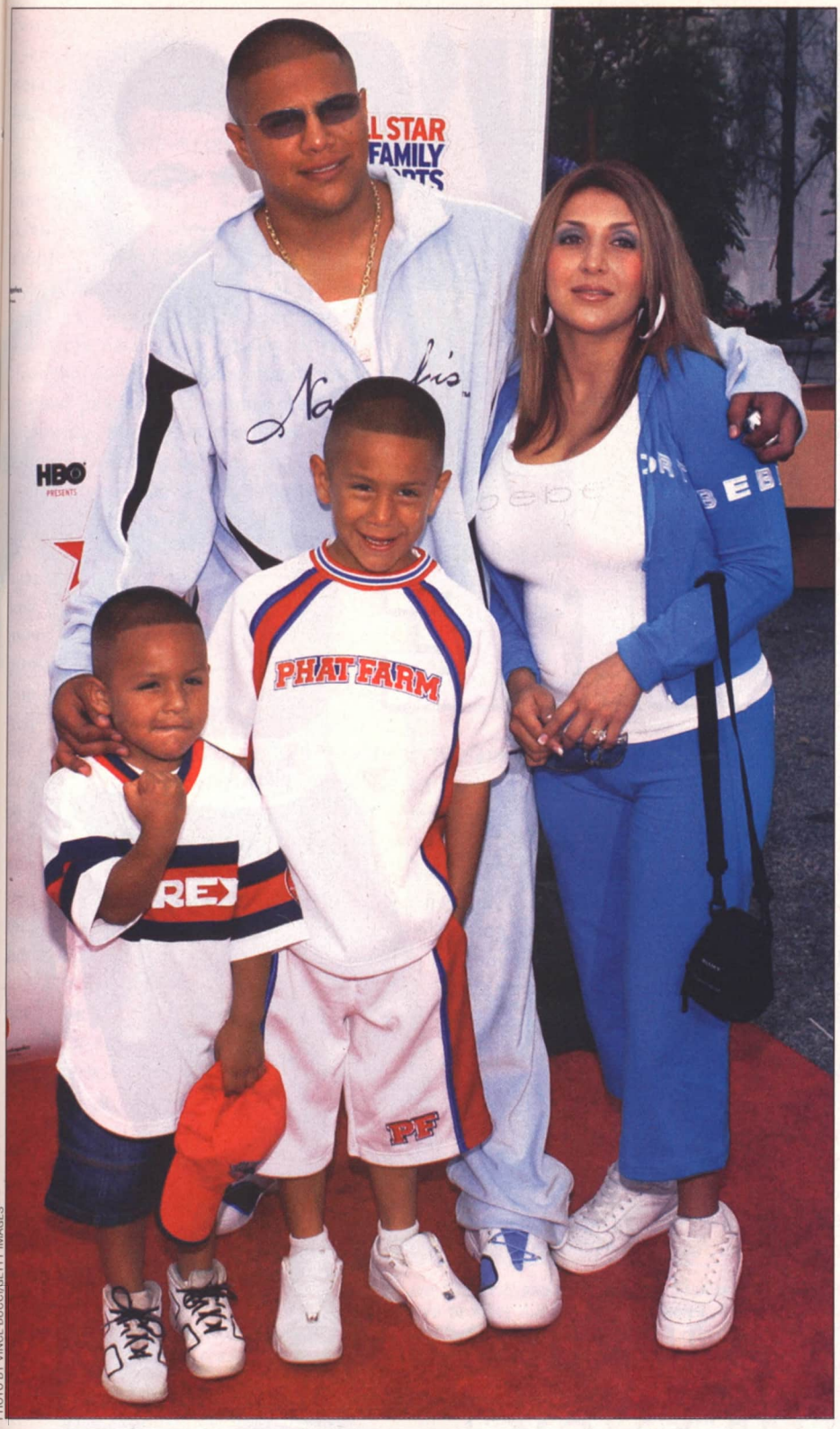


PHOTO BY VINCE BUCCI/GETTY IMAGES

Vargas poses with his sons Amado and Papas and wife Martha at a charity event in Santa Monica, California, in June. Vargas arrived sporting garments from his new clothing line, Nawshis.

Marketplace in Las Vegas in late-August. He signed a mariachi singer named Samuel Hernandez (who got Vargas' attention by writing a song about the boxer) to a contract on his new Ferocious Records label, with the debut CD pressed and ready for distribution at the end of the summer. And Vargas was also set for a role in the Nick Casavetes-directed film *Jesse James: Hollywood*, playing a young gang member by the name of Skidmore. Shooting was due to begin in early-fall.

"I'm just trying to make a dollar and 15 cents," Vargas joked. "Think about it: George Foreman, he made more with the damn George Foreman grill than he did in his whole career in boxing. Boxing is a great avenue to get your name out there, and I'm trying to take advantage of that."

But boxing remains Vargas' number-one professional priority. His goal is to win a third title, but he insists he's going to ease his way back. As much as he'd love to avenge his two losses, he's not going to take a fight with Trinidad or De La Hoya until he feels he's ready. Who he'll fight and when exactly he'll return are uncertain.

What is certain is that he won't be fighting at junior middleweight anymore. After fighting at 154 pounds for the last seven years, he's outgrown the division and will be a middleweight when he comes back—maybe even a super middleweight, if he finds that poundage to be more comfortable.

Some say Vargas is a spent force, but he sees the first 10 rounds of the De La Hoya fight as proof that the Trinidad war didn't ruin him, and he expects to prove over time that the De La Hoya defeat didn't ruin him either. He looks at everything from this point forward as the "second stage" of his career, and believes, contrary to popular opinion, that it will be more successful than the first stage. But there's one thing both stages will have in common: There will never be any dog in Vargas.

"I'm not going to bow down. I'm not going to give up in the corner, that's not me," Vargas said. "I gotta look at myself in the mirror. I like the person that I look at when I brush my teeth in the morning. I know that person has never bowed down or pussied out."

He sure sounds like the Latino Gatti to us, but if Vargas doesn't like that comparison, maybe the Latino John Kerry is more up his alley. Whether he fails or succeeds on his comeback mission, Bruce Springsteen's "No Surrender" is as fitting a campaign theme song for Vargas as it is for anyone. ■

MOSLEY'S LAST CHANCE

PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Can A New Trainer Bring Out The Old Sugar Shane?

By Ivan Goldman

When the bell sounds in Las Vegas, Sugar Shane Mosley can't allow round one of the rematch to turn into round 13 of the first contest, when Winky Wright beat him like a rug. So as they prepared, Mosley and his new trainer Joe Goossen were doing everything they could to break the pattern.

Avoiding anything fancy, their workouts were at Goossen's gym in Los Angeles. You could call it a real-life repeat of the movie when new trainer Apollo Creed steered Rocky to an inner-city gym to get back the eye of the tiger.

In the good old days, when he was being called a reincarnated Sugar Ray Robinson, Sugar Shane trained at the L.A. Boxing Club, a public gym where he sweated alongside amateurs and lesser pros. After he became a millionaire athlete and started training in his own private quarters, something got lost along the way; no-longer-invincible Mosley suffered losses against Vernon Forrest twice and then that ignominious one-sided decision defeat to Wright.

You often hear that an upcoming contest is make-it-or-break-it time, and it's usually an exaggeration. But not this time, not for Mosley. If one opponent has your number, well, it happens. But when

two fighters have you solved, then everybody will say you probably weren't as good as everybody thought. And everybody just could be right.

You can bet Wright, 32, will be putting out at least as much effort this time as he did in the first go-around. Almost all fighters at his level are almost pathologically competitive. They want to beat your brains out at midnight checkers. Still, Wright could survive a loss more easily than Mosley. It would clear the way for a rubber match, another good payday, and another grab at the brass ring. Mosley, on the other hand, is like a baseball team that lost the first three games of the World Series.

It's a big question whether Sugar Shane, also 32, can really feel confident against a fighter who in their first contest had an answer for almost every move. They say a fighter will always be gun-shy of an opponent who kayoed him. But taking 36 minutes of dispiriting hell can wound a fighter's spirit just as deeply. In his second fight against Forrest, somewhere during the middle rounds Mosley had the look of a fighter who was just going through the motions, allowing the opponent to dictate. He had the courage and the will not to quit, but the will to win looked like it drifted up into the TV lights.

"I'm 120 percent confident we can get Shane in a positive frame of mind," Goossen said. "The attitude and the intensity will be there." A prime example of such a recovery, Goossen said, was lightweight Diego "Chico" Corrales' victory over Joel Casamayor in their rematch. "Diego took a pretty good trouncing the first time, and then he turned it around. My goal is to win every time, and that's what we're going to do here."

Goossen, who trained the winning Casamayor in the first contest and switched corners to work with winner Corrales in the rematch, said he sees strategies he and Mosley can put together to put Wright on the losing end.

"Sometimes," Goossen said, you're just going to have an off-night. There are all sorts of reasons—physical, mental, spiritual, or a combination of the three. I was as shocked as everyone else was during that fight with Winky. You never expect to see a sluggish Shane Mosley. I chalk it up as an anomaly, a rarity."

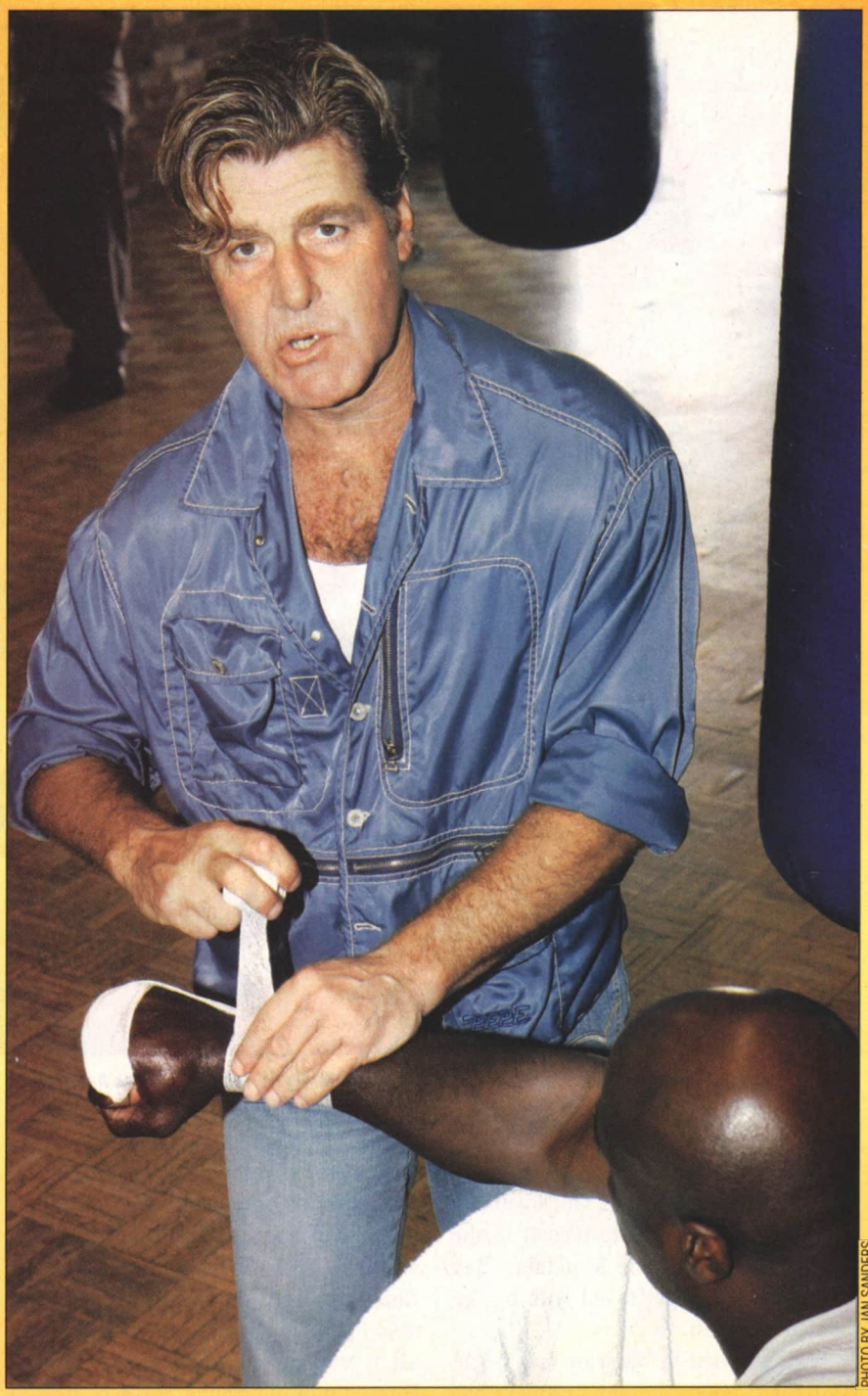


PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

Joe Goossen, pictured wrapping heavyweight Cedric Boswell's hands, is confident that he will be able to bring out the best in Mosley. The trainer has been hot of late, especially working with lightweight Diego Corrales, but it remains to be seen if he can help former pound-for-pound king Sugar Shane regain the junior middleweight championship.

But then what about Vernon Forrest, who took it to Mosley in two back-to-back outings?

"Everyone's got their Doctor Moriarty," Goossen said. "Vernon at that particular time was the guy. Somebody's always going to have your number. It happened to Joe Louis, to Sugar Ray Leonard, to everybody. Would I like to have a crack at Vernon Forrest now with Shane? You bet. But it's not in the cards when you look at where Vernon is now."

Where Vernon is now after two back-to-back losses to Ricardo Mayorga is almost precisely where Mosley was after

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Jack Mosley instructs his son between rounds of the first Winky Wright fight. Jack had trained Shane from the start of his amateur career, but didn't seem to have any answers when Wright's style totally befuddled Shane.

two straight losses to Forrest: looking for an elusive redemption. On November 20, Mosley will have to find it in the same ring in the same Mandalay Bay casino where Wright toyed with him in their first contest.

"I don't want to boast or brag about my fighter," Goossen said. "But I've had him in my gym long enough to know something great is in front of me. He's extremely exceptional in athletic prowess and abilities. He just needed a little change-up in his environment, a new lease on life. I'll tell you, with Gabe and Rafael Ruelas, I was running out of ideas for them. Things get stale over a number of years. A fighter needs a little infusion sometimes. He has to make that change. I'm firmly convinced that Shane's got all his skills intact. He's a great machine. I'm just going to make sure he's running at 120 percent."

Goossen's optimism is not universally shared in the fight world. Yes, Mosley, 39-3 (35) with 1 no-contest, finally replaced the trainer he'd had all his life, father Jack Mosley. But if that's all it took to create a winner, every fighter would change trainers before every contest.

"I don't think Shane can beat Winky Wright on his best day," said longtime California matchmaker Jerry Bilderrain. "Winky is a little too cute for him. And I don't think Shane has what he once had. You know what? I think the fire has gone out."

Don Fraser, another longtime boxing hand who, like Bilderrain, watched Mosley before anyone knew who he was, believes once again he'll be playing a losing hand.

"Winky beat him convincingly," Fraser said. "Shane didn't hurt the guy. The guy's got a difficult style, and Winky's still improving and he's not."

Said Bilderrain: "I think Winky's just way above him technically. He's going to outslick him. Winky can pull away from stuff coming at him. He's got great little head movements. Nobody hits him flush. Fernando Vargas couldn't either. Winky takes away power with head movement and mobility."

But a fighter's reputation often moves like the stock market. It goes too far in one direction before it reverses. If conventional wisdom always proved true, boxing wouldn't be as exciting as it is. Before the first Forrest contest, Mosley was considered just about unbeatable. Mayorga was viewed as a tune-up, somebody to keep Forrest in shape while he

Southpaw Wright slams a hard right into Mosley's chin during their March 2004 encounter in Las Vegas that saw the title change hands when Wright scored a unanimous 12-round decision. Most experts expect the rematch to turn out the same way as the first fight.

prepared for real competition. But after the opening bell, reputations and expectations proved meaningless.

For many years, conventional wisdom placed Wright on a lower shelf. Even after he gave a prime Vargas a close fight that many observers thought Wright actually won, few experts talked about how good Wright was. Most of them were asking what happened to Vargas. Wright, who took THE RING junior middleweight championship from Mosley along with assorted alphabet belts, is without question a difficult nut to crack. But there are no perfect fighters who remain perfect all the time. There are too many variables, too many split-second possibilities that can untie the knot.

Also, southpaw Wright, 47-3 (25), has never had overwhelming one-punch power. When opponents have a tough chin, like Mosley's, Wright settles in to torture them until the final bell. He forces his will upon them and tears their fight plan into shreds. But 36 minutes of hell gives a determined opponent plenty of time to set a trap. And that's where Goossen comes in.

"By no means do I underestimate Winky Wright," Goossen said. "He's got great determination and a lot of skill, with a tricky, tight defense. He's also an extremely accurate counterpuncher, and he doesn't take a lot of abuse. On top of all that, he's a southpaw.

"But just think about the guys Shane has already beaten. I really feel that good as Winky is, I've got real talent here. Shane Mosley is a Hall of Famer. I haven't had my hands on talent like this in many, many years.

"Shane has speed, agility, power, smarts. He goes to the body beautifully. He's got a hell of a right hand. This guy can do it all. I've got to feel confident of my guy, regardless of how good Winky Wright is. I've got a real racehorse with Shane Mosley. He takes care of himself, he's true blue, loyal to a fault. His loyalty to his father shows you just what type of person he is. His dad and he served each other well. And Shane's not an entourage type of guy. He's a family man who loves his kids and his home, and that makes him train even harder."

None of the above can be disputed. Trouble is, just about all of it applies to

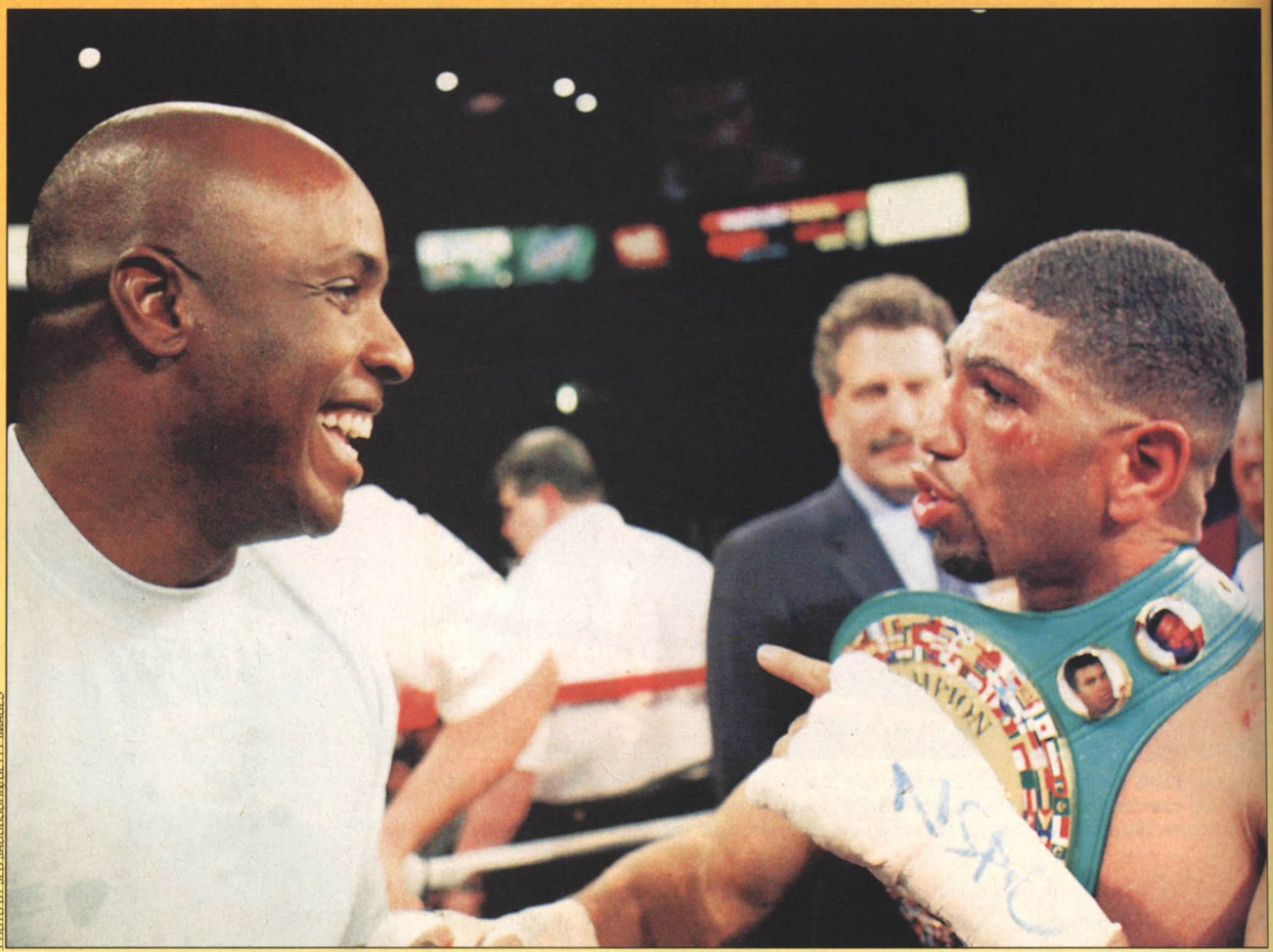


PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Wright chats with home run king Barry Bonds following the first Mosley fight. Wright, who has struggled for years on the fringes of the big time, won't easily surrender his new status as an undisputed world champion and the million-dollar purses that go with it.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Mosley seemed almost unbeatable following his career-best win over Oscar De La Hoya in their first fight. If Mosley can somehow return to that form, he may be able to avenge his loss to Wright.

Winky as well. These are two of the nicest people in boxing. It's difficult to find anyone who dislikes them.

Some more facts Mosley and Goossen must deal with: Mosley had a terrible time hitting Wright with his jab, while Wright's jab was in Mosley's face all night. And when Wright turned pro in 1990 he weighed in at 152. When Mosley turned pro in 1993, he weighed 132½. Wright is a full-fledged junior middleweight. He stayed at the weight because that's what his body told him. Mosley moved up for the money, chasing and catching Oscar De La Hoya, first at welterweight and then at junior middle.

But Mosley's hand speed and footwork did not move with him. If he and Goossen can recapture it, we'll have a real fight on our hands. Otherwise, look out for a steamroller named Winky. ■

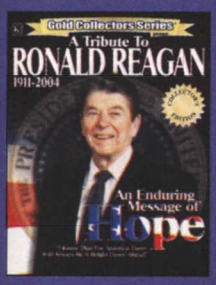
Ivan Goldman is THE RING's West Coast correspondent.

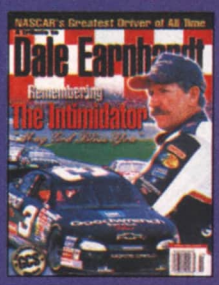
A Salute To THE LEGENDS

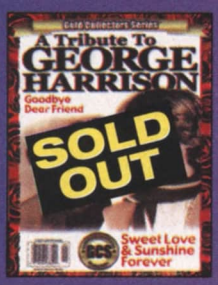
Ronald Reagan. Dale Earnhardt. George Harrison. Elvis Presley. Bob Hope. Johnny Cash.

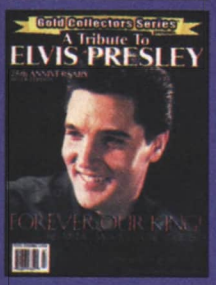
These men gave so much of themselves to the world, and their passing left a huge void for us all. Their deaths are to be mourned, but their lives are to be celebrated.

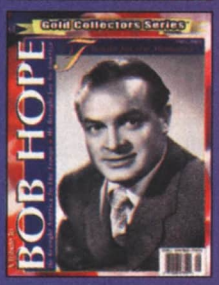
London Publishing Co. is making these Gold Collectors Editions available so that we can relive their brilliance and honor their memory. This offering is being made only while our extremely limited inventory lasts.











Ronald Reagan—An Enduring Message Of Hope: A look back at President Reagan's life, from radio broadcaster to the White House.

Dale Earnhardt—Remembering The Intimidator: The one-of-a-kind driver more than lived up to his nickname.

George Harrison—The Quiet Beatle: His contribution to The Fab Four was often overlooked.

Elvis Presley—Forever Our King: A unique look back at Elvis' career on the 25th anniversary of his passing.

Bob Hope—Thanks For The Memories: He brought America to the troops and joy to America.

Johnny Cash—The Man In Black: His influence on his fans and fellow musicians cannot be understated.

- ☐ **Ronald Reagan—An Enduring Message of Hope**
- ☐ **Dale Earnhardt—Remembering The Intimidator**
- ☐ ~~**George Harrison—The Quiet Beatle**~~
- ☐ **Elvis Presley—Forever Our King**
- ☐ **Bob Hope—Thanks For The Memories**
- ☐ **Johnny Cash—The Man In Black**

Please send the collector's issues I have indicated above!
I have enclosed $7 per issue as payment in full (postage included) or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase.

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Please indicate method of payment:

- ☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
- ☐ Visa # _____
- ☐ MasterCard # _____

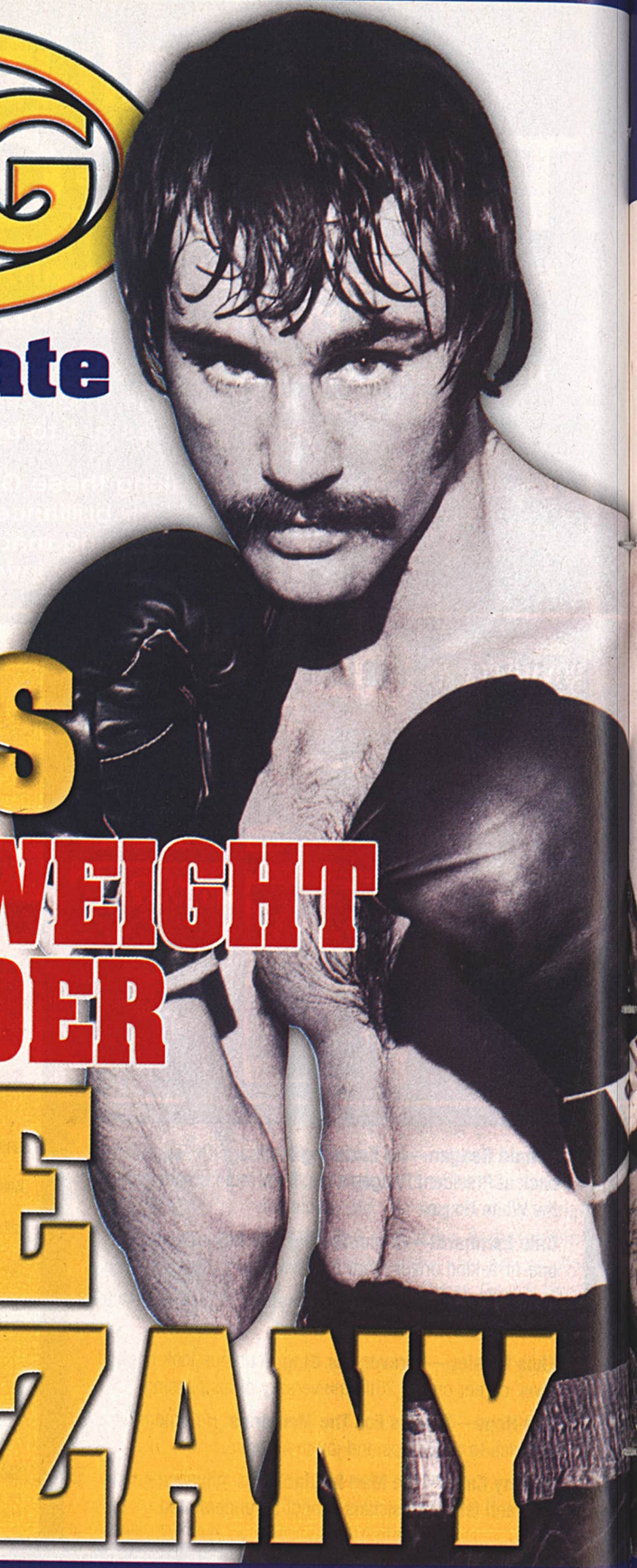
Expiration Date: ____/____
MO YR

Signature: _____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail, and $3 for every issue to be sent airmail. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

6996J 7-04

The RING Update



1970s WELTERWEIGHT CONTENDER PETE RANZANY

"I Never Fought For Money; I Fought To Become Champion"

By Robert Mladinich

Stepping out of the spotlight is never easy, and when former welterweight contender Pete Ranzany retired from the ring in 1983 with a 59-8-2 (38) record, he was unsure of what his life's next chapter would bring. Due to the fact that he was a local hero in his hometown of Sacramento, California, where he fought 57 of his 69 pro bouts, deciding what to do for an encore was difficult indeed.

The only thing Ranzany knew for sure was that he wanted to help people. Having already earned an associate's degree in social science, his long-term plan had always been to become a social worker. But after a few visits to a juvenile hall, those plans were scuttled. Having grown up poor and fatherless in some of Sacramento's toughest neighborhoods, Ranzany, whose father was Italian and whose mother was of Irish and German descent, had already overcome long odds. But hearing these children talk of their plights was sometimes more than he could bear.

"I would hear all these horrible stories about kids being abused and molested, and be depressed for weeks," Ranzany said. "I guess my Italian side was very emotional, and I realized the job was not for me."

Friends in the California Highway Patrol also recruited him, but after viewing photos of mangled bodies being extricated from vehicles, the thought of notifying family members of their dead kin dissuaded him from that job, too. A few years later, Sal Lopez, the brother of Tony "The Tiger" Lopez and a former opponent of Ranzany's, convinced him to become a corrections officer.

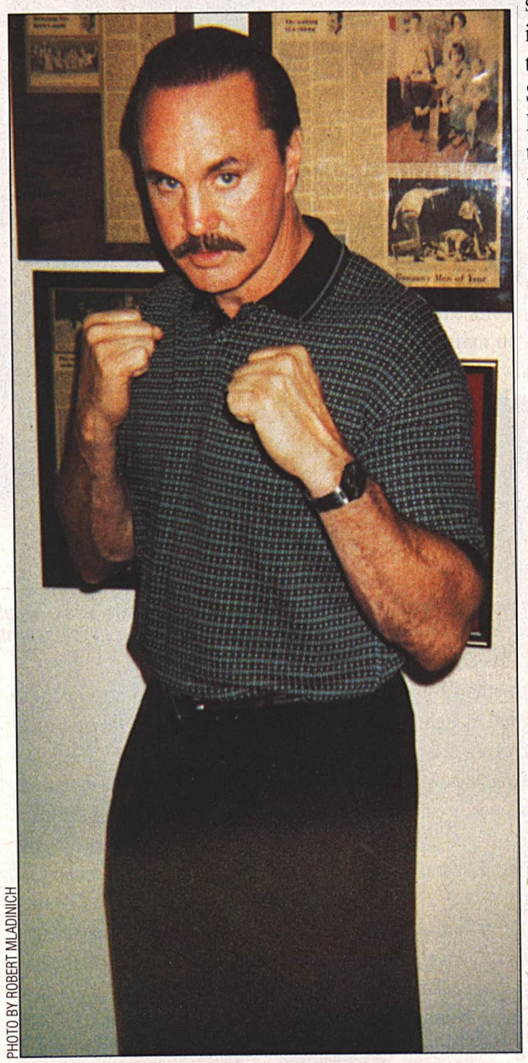


PHOTO BY ROBERT MLADINICH

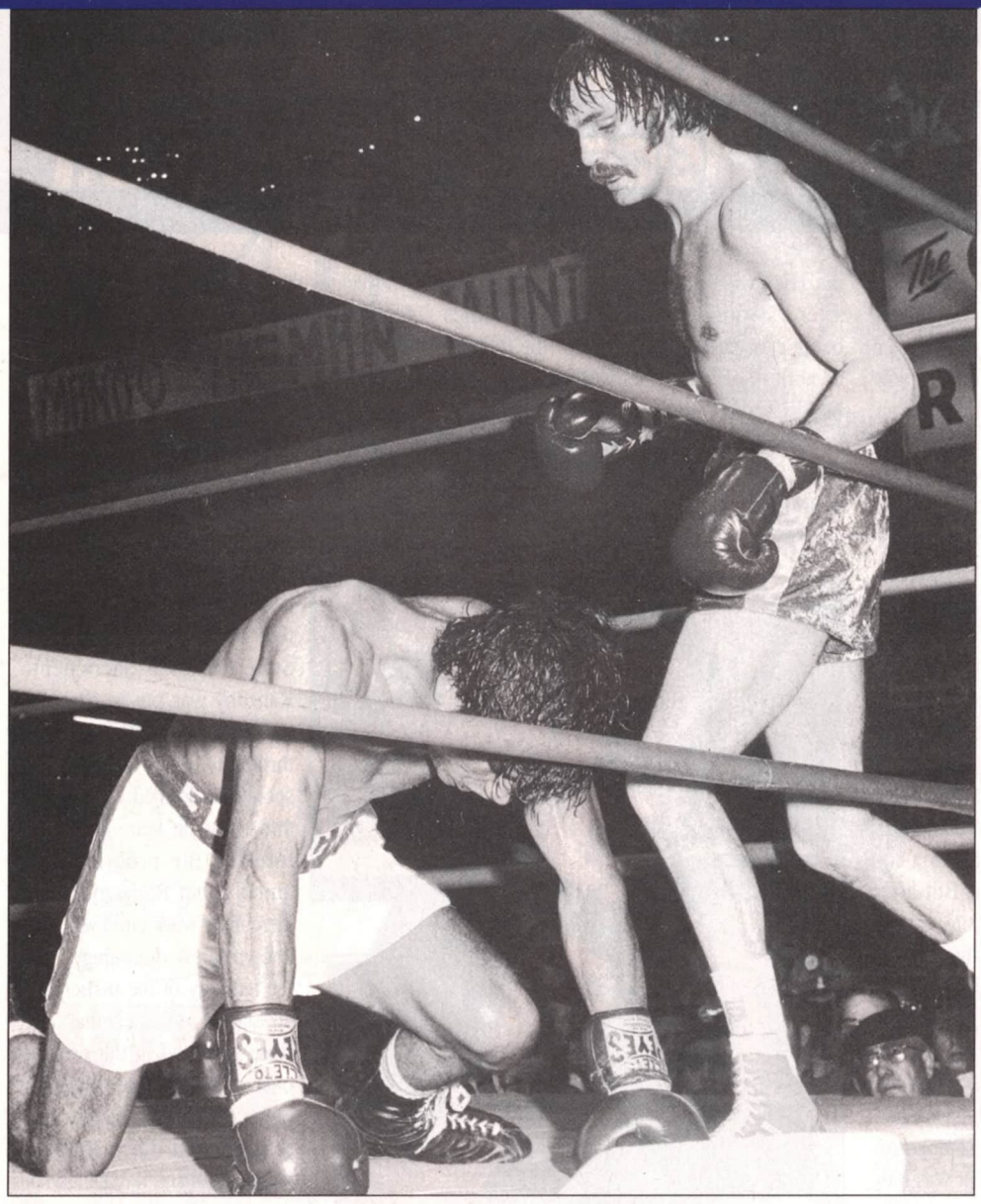
Then and now: Even though his hair is shorter, it doesn't look like Ranzany has put on much weight since his fighting days. The 52-year-old former welterweight contender keeps himself in top condition and shows no ill effects of his 69-bout pro career against some of the very best welterweights of the 1970s.

Besides the fact that the pay was good, Ranzany hoped he could be a positive influence on the inmates by imparting his boxing knowledge, and the associated physical and mental discipline, on them.

When Ranzany was hired 16 years ago, the California prison system had a lauded boxing program. As fate would have it, shortly after being assigned to the maximum security Folsom Prison, which is now known by the more genteel name of the California State Prison at Sacramento, Ranzany was put in charge of the boxing team. At first he was thrilled to be participating in a sport that defined exactly who and what he was. Under his tutelage the program grew quickly, but Ranzany, whose Herculean work ethic was well-known, grew discouraged with the lethargy of the participants. He started to suspect that many were involved in the program only to avoid more unpleasant options. Those suspicions were exacerbated when Ranzany began requiring inmates to spar once a week.

"Overnight I went from 50 fighters to 16," he recalled. "Most of them didn't like the discipline. In the movies, inmates are usually really tough. But after working with these guys for a year, I'd bet my sister could have beaten many of them if they didn't have a knife or a gun."

When Ranzany wasn't running the boxing team, he was assigned to a cellblock that housed a notorious killer named Angelo Buono. Along with his cousin Kenneth Bianchi, Buono had been convicted of a series of murders in Los Angeles. The press had dubbed the cousins



Although he fought the majority of his fights in his hometown of Sacramento, Ranzany was a popular performer throughout the West Coast circuit. He's pictured here knocking out Abel Cordoba in the seventh round of a January 1977 bout at Los Angeles' fabled Olympic Auditorium.

the Hillside Stranglers for the method by which they killed their victims. Even though Buono worked as the cook in Ranzany's section, other inmates ostracized him. As a new prison guard (the official title has since been changed to "correctional peace officer"), Ranzany made clear that on his watch there would be a policy of inclusion for all.

The manipulative Buono used Ranzany's innate decency and naivete against him. Seizing on the fact that he and his jailer shared Italian surnames, he tried to bond with him by continually telling Ranzany how overzealous prosecutors railroaded him. Although Ranzany took Buono's ramblings with a degree of skepticism, he couldn't help but be charmed by him. That all ended on the day Buono approached Ranzany after observing him talking to a female medical technician.

"He got this crazy look on his face and started calling women all sorts of names, and telling me you couldn't trust any of them," said Ranzany. "It was a real eye-opener. He couldn't help but show his true colors. That made things very clear to me, not just with Buono, but also with all the inmates. The way they talk and act on the inside is not necessarily how they talked and acted on the outside."

Ranzany couldn't help but recall the words of advice he had received from his good friend Jack Hearns, a former Sacramento police chief, when he was considering his second career. "He said if you work with losers all the time, you'll start to feel like a loser," said Ranzany. "He said a prison guard's job was actually much harder than a cop's job. Both are dealing with negativity all the time, but cops are not fighting crime every minute. Prison guards are dealing with criminals everyday. And cops get a chance to see positive results once in a while. Prison guards don't."

Ranzany doesn't agree wholeheartedly with that assessment. What satisfaction is lacking from the job itself is more than made up by the sense of camaraderie he shares with his fellow officers. While he has born witness to no shortage of murders, rapes, hangings, stabbings, and suicides over the years, he has also seen the great lengths to which he and his colleagues will go when looking out for each other. "That makes it worthwhile," Ranzany said. "I've worked with some of the finest people I've ever known. When something bad happens, everything stops. And everyone goes into a certain mode where we just look out for each other."

Ranzany has always had an immeasurable heart not just as a fighter, but also as a human being. That was evident as early as his first amateur fight, when he was still a teenager. After training for just four months, Ranzany was matched with a more experienced youngster who began the bout by throwing a barrage of wild punches. Ranzany knocked him cold with one left hook. Because all the fighters shared the same dressing room, Ranzany saw his opponent and his father crying unabashedly after their early exit.

"I was devastated, and said [fighting] was not for me," Ranzany remembered. "I was ready to quit, but then I walked outside and all these people started asking for my autograph. From that moment on, I was hooked."

Ranzany went on to have a stellar amateur career, and even represented the United

Ranzany poses in the gym with his manager Joey Lopes (left) and trainer Herman Carter. Not listening to Carter in the biggest fight of his career might have cost Ranzany a title.

States Army during his three-year hitch from 1970-'73. He beat future professional champion Carlos Palomino at the '72 Olympic Trials, but lost to eventual gold medalist Sugar Ray Seales in the finals.

After leaving the Army, Ranzany was torn between moving to Los Angeles to turn pro or attending college in Sacramento. It was the late Victor Swezey, a reporter for the *Sacramento Bee*, who convinced him to stay at home and do both. A consortium of 10 businessmen used the first three letters of Ranzany's name and his hometown to form Ransac, a corporation that paid him $100 a week to train.

"For the businessmen, it was like owning a piece of a horse," said Ranzany, who turned pro in October 1973.

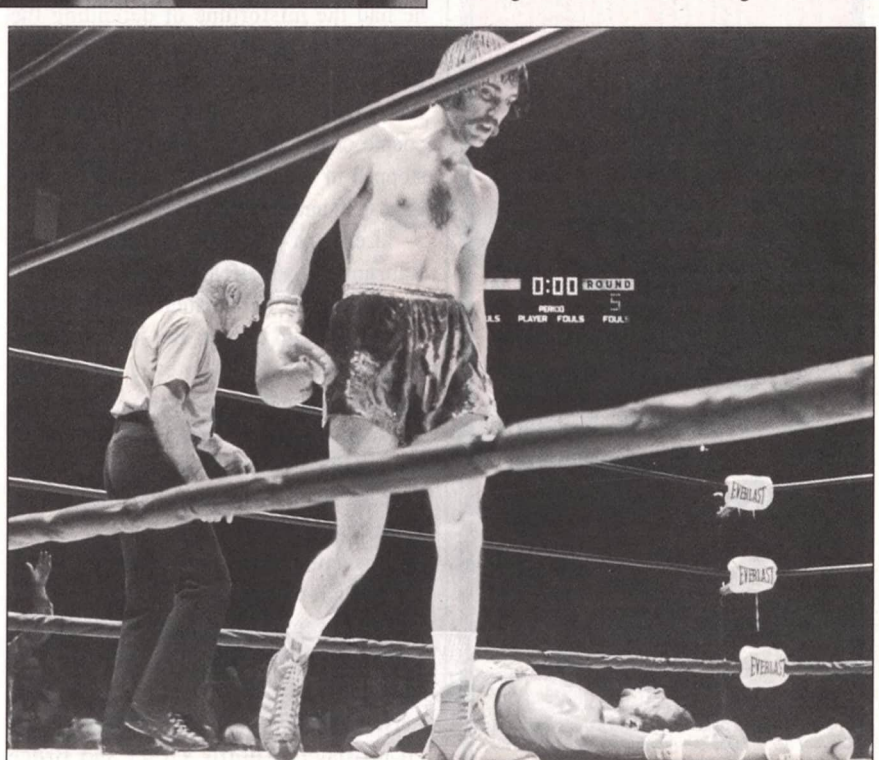
At the time Sacramento had no major sports franchise, and the immensely popular Ranzany quickly became an entity unto himself. The late-'70s was a golden age for welterweights, and Ranzany not only fought most of the great champions, he never embarrassed himself or his hometown.

"The fans were really good to me," he said. "When I won, the whole city won. When I lost, I felt like I let the whole city down."

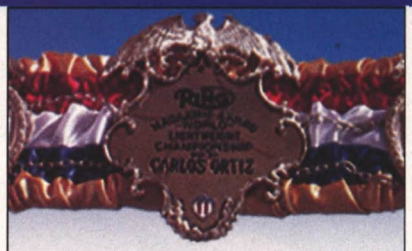
That was never more apparent than on the rainy night in September 1978 when he challenged Pipino Cuevas for the WBA title before more than 17,000 fans at Hughes Arena. Trainers Joey Lopes and Herman Carter had devised a battle plan where the usually offensive-minded Ranzany would utilize his vast boxing skills to take the murderous punching Cuevas into the later rounds before going for the knockout. All went according to plan in the first round, which Ranzany won handily.

"Cuevas was a great, great puncher, but he couldn't box a lick," explained Ranzany. "I couldn't do anything wrong in the first round. After I buckled his knees, I went back to my corner and told Herman Carter, 'I'm gonna be champ. I'm gonna punish him the next round.'"

Carter implored him to stick with the plan, and not get suckered by Cuevas' apparent defensive deficiencies. "He said, 'Boy, do what you trained to.' As he was telling me this, I'm listening to all these



Ranzany was at his peak when he knocked out previously undefeated Bruce Finch in May 1977. However, his hot streak ended later that year when Armando Muniz stopped Ranzany on cuts.



FOR SALE

The Ring Championship Boxing Belts

- **Limited Edition Belts of LaMotta, Marciano, Moore, Robinson, Ortiz and others.**
- **Expertly crafted by the makers of all the current Ring Belts.**

For further information please contact
Newport Marketing, Inc.
901 Elm Street, Colon, MI 49040
269-432-9480 Fax 269-432-9560
nptmktg@aol.com

THE RING BOXING ALMANAC

Limited quantities of the *Ring Boxing Almanacs* are still available. Send a check or money order for $7 each (postage included) to: London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.
Please check issue(s) desired; I have enclosed $7 each as payment in full:

☐ 1997 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 2001 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 2002 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 2003 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 2004 Ring Boxing Almanac

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

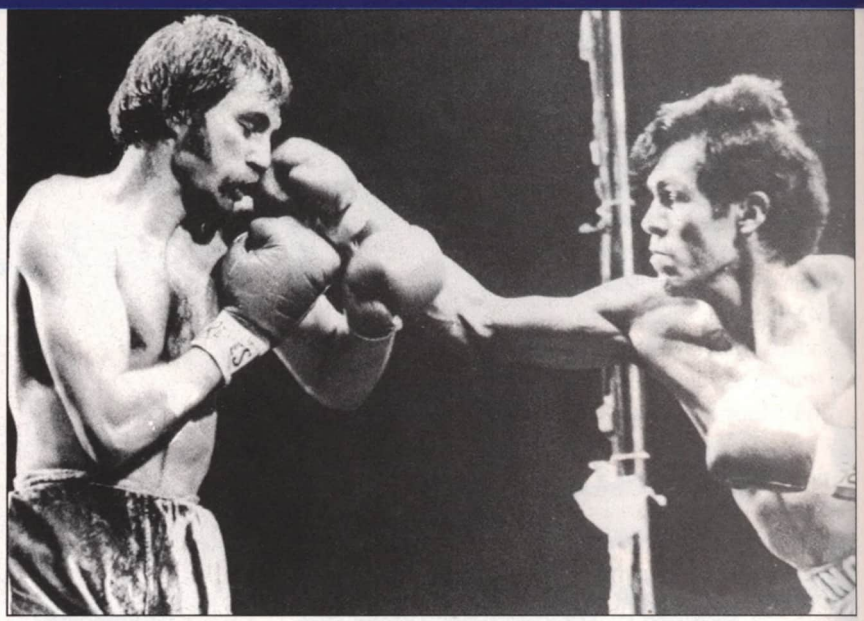
_____ APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

In all countries outside the U.S., please add $3 for every issue to be sent airmail or $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

6550/03-04



WBA welterweight titleholder Pipino Cuevas finds Ranzany's face with a right hand in their September 1978 title bout in Sacramento. Ranzany won the opening round, but became cocky, abandoned his strategy, and was stopped in the second.

thousands of people screaming, 'Pete, Pete, Pete.' The next thing I remember is asking what happened. I later learned that he knocked me down twice, and the fight was stopped in the second round. I was depressed for a week."

Ranzany still had the NABF title, though—he'd won it in '76—but after putting together five straight post-Cuevas wins, he had the misfortune of defending the regional belt against Sugar Ray Leonard in Las Vegas, for a career-high $75,000 purse. Ranzany had his moments, and even won a couple of rounds against Leonard, but was stopped in the fourth after getting hit with almost 30 unanswered punches.

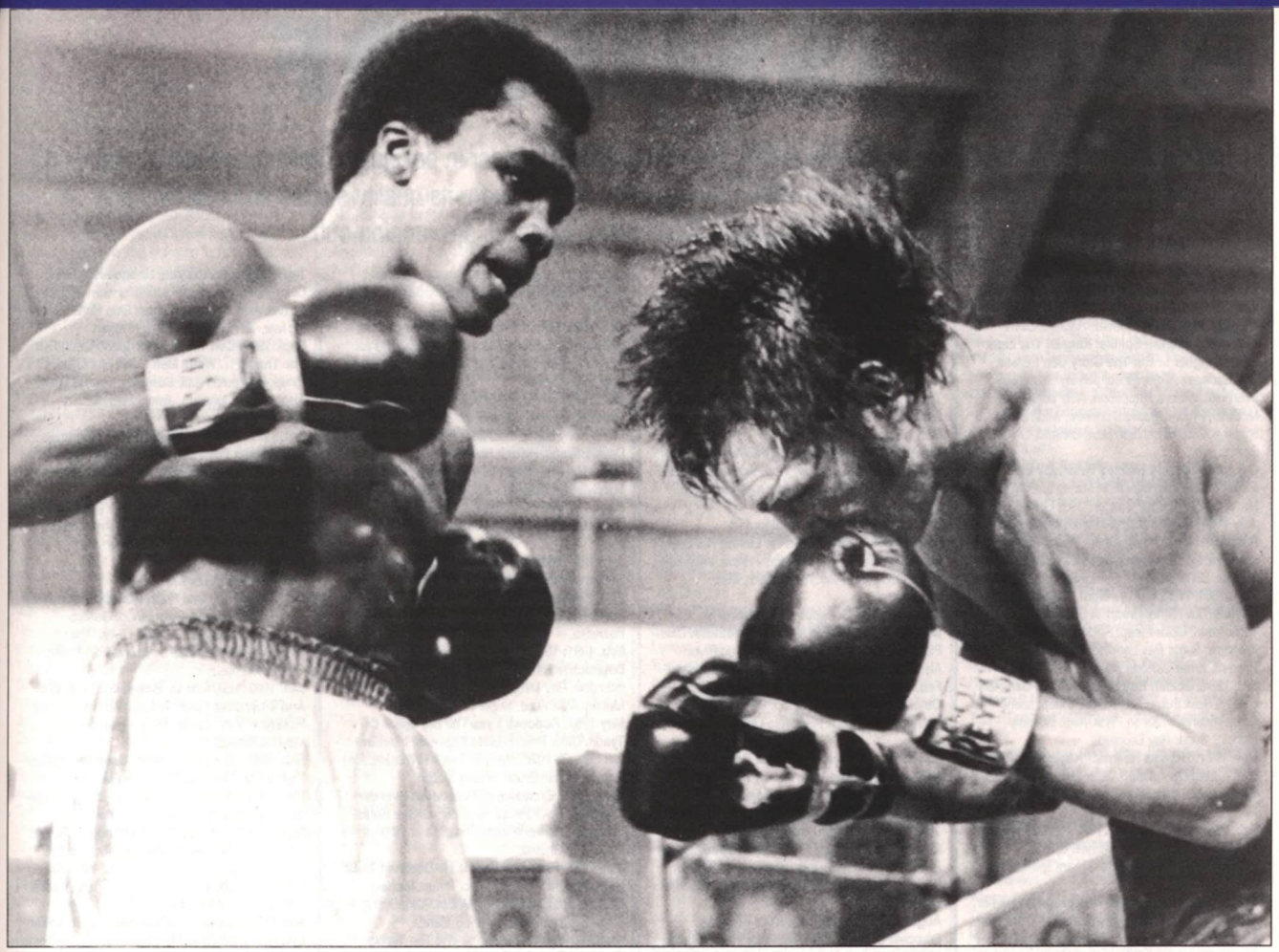
"Leonard was just awesome," said Ranzany. "I had already lost a close decision to him in the amateurs, so I thought I knew what to expect. But he had gotten so much better. Nobody ever stressed me out like Leonard. He knocked the crap out of me, and he scared the crap out of me." Leonard later told him he would have let him last longer if he hadn't tried so hard to win.

It is unfair to remember Ranzany solely for his high-profile losses. He also beat former lightweight titlist Sean O'Grady, top contender Randy Shields (whom he also fought to a technical draw), Canadian warhorse Clyde Gray, and previously undefeated prospects Adolfo Viruet and Bruce Finch. The Viruet fight was so exciting, fans threw more than $300 worth of coins into the ring, and the victory over Shields was memorable for more than what happened in the ring. Shields' father Sonny, a Hollywood stunt man and inveterate brawler, went into the stands to slug it out with hecklers and emerged a bloody heap. He then visited Ranzany's dressing room and told him that his fans were tougher than he was.

Ranzany grew concerned after suffering a serious eye injury caused by an errant O'Grady thumb in October 1982. He fought only twice more after that, opting to retire after traveling to Italy in July 1983 and losing a decision to Nino LaRocca, who was 54-0 at the time. Not only did Ranzany quit, he vowed to never dwell negatively on the past, and instead cherish the multitude of happy memories he accumulated during his sterling career.

Although Ranzany never won a world title, he has no regrets and is happy with the way his life turned out. He and his wife, Rose, who never had children together, have been a couple since 1971, and they live in a nice home in a nice neighborhood. Ranzany not only keeps himself in tip-top physical condition, he has all of his faculties and a quick and easy wit. As a young man he always thought the greatest measure of success was having a swimming pool, but now that he does he laments about having to pay to maintain something he never uses.

In a few years, Ranzany will be eligible for a decent pension. At that point, he



Ranzany tries to cover up as Sugar Ray Leonard attacks during their August 1979 fight in Las Vegas. Ranzany, who readily admits that Leonard was an "awesome" fighter, was stopped in the fourth round by the then-undefeated future Hall of Famer.

would like to immerse himself in volunteer work. It is apparent that underneath the subtle cynicism that comes so easily for people in challenging vocations such as his, Ranzany never lost his sense of altruism. He is more than content with all he's done in the past, and equally optimistic about what he will accomplish in the future.

"I think I always did everything for the right reasons," he explained. "Believe it or not, I never fought for money; I fought to become champion. Money was always secondary. When I realized that wasn't going to happen, I quit. For years people tried to lure me out of retirement, but I knew what was best for me. I walked away, and I have never looked back. I'm still looking forward." ■

Robert Mladinich is a New York-based freelance writer and a regular contributor to this magazine.

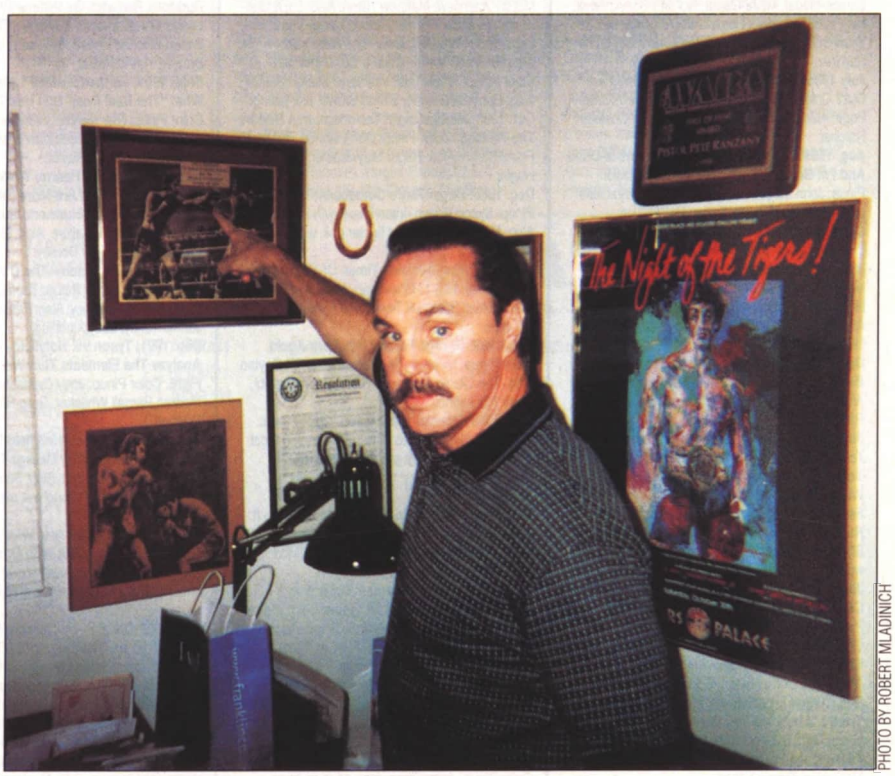


PHOTO BY ROBERT MLADINICH

Ranzany points to some of the memorabilia he collected during his career as one of the Sacramento's all-time favorite fighters. He has worked as a prison guard for the last 16 years, but hopes to retire soon and dedicate himself to volunteer work.

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine,* the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

July 1984: Donald Curry: "I'm Better Under Pressure." Color Pinup: Gerrie Coetzee. Interview: Curry. Also: Pipino Cuevas, John Mugabi, Bill Costello, M. Spinks-Davis.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: *KO* Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Oct. 1985: Still Champ After All These Years: Larry Holmes—A Legend Continues To Grow. Interview: Mark Breland. Also: Michael Spinks, Milton McCrory, Wilfredo Gomez.

Nov. 1985: McGuigan! The Pluck Of The Irish. Also: Julio Cesar Chavez, Thomas-Weaver, Donald Curry, featherweights.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

Feb. 1986: King Michael: How Long Will He Rule The Heavyweights? Also: Barry McGuigan, Shawn O'Sullivan, Spinks-Holmes, *Rocky IV,* world's best fighter poll.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Oct. 1986: They're Back!!! The Cooney Circus Returns. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Jimmy Paul, Mike Tyson, Donald Curry.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Also: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

June 1987: New WBA Welterweight Champion Mark Breland: He's Got A Lot To Smile About. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Color Pinup: Greg Haugen. Also: Michael Olajide, Carlos Monzon.

Aug. 1987: Sweet Victory! Sugar Ray Humbles Hagler. Color Pinup: Leonard vs. Hagler. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Spinks-Cooney preview, Donald Curry.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King—But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: *KO* Exclusive—Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: *KO's* Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Dec. 1988: Sugar Ray's Comeback: Why? Color Pinup: Simon Brown. Interview: Kevin Rooney. Also: Michael Nunn, best fighter poll, welterweight wars.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Aug. 1989: Special 100th Issue. Color Pinup: Hagler vs. Hearns. Also: The *KO* Years, 50 most influential people, '80s ratings, best of *KO* Interview, year-by-year review, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: *KO* Interview—Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: *KO* Interview—Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, best fighter poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive *KO* Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, J.C. Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson—The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield—The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: *KO* Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

Feb. 1993: Strictly Business: George Foreman Fights For The Love Of It—The Money! Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: George Benton. Also: Tracy Spann, Oba Carr, greatest eras.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The *KO* Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Also: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Also: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Also: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Also: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Also: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Also: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: *KO's* 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Also: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Also: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Also: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Also: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Also: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Also: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Also: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Also: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Also: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Also: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Also: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Also: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Also: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chavez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Also: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Also: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Also: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Also: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Also: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Also: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayweather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Also: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Also: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Also: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Also: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Also: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Also: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitali Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Also: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

Aug. 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns." Color Pinup: Steve Johnston. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

Sept. 2000: Now Vargas Is Ready For Trinidad & De La Hoya. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Trinidad vs. all-time greats, Thomas Hearns, common sense vs. cowardice.

Oct. 2000 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Floyd Mayweather. Interview: Stevie Johnston. Also: Clifford Etienne, overhyped heavyweights.

Nov. 2000: Sugar Rush! Mosley Achieves Superstardom At Oscar's Expense. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Jay Larkin. Also: David Tua, Oleg Maskaev, Ben Tackie.

Dec. 2000: Mike Tyson vs. Lennox Lewis: 15 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Interview: Frank Maloney. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Bronco McKart, our heroes' heroes.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2001]

Feb. 2001: Fernando Vargas' Internal Battle: If He Can't Win It, He Can't Beat Trinidad. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Derrick Gainer, Roy Jones, Naseem Hamed.

April 2001: Lewis Is Too Much For Tua ... But Could Tyson Do Any Better? Interview: Max Kellerman. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Wladimir Klitschko.

June 2001: Trinidad-Jones: Superfight Or Mismatch? Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Mayweather-Corrales, Paul Ingle, Davey Hilton, Tyson's relationship with Vargas, Judah, and Mayweather.

Aug. 2001: Sugar Shane Mosley: Too Sweet For The Bad Boy Era? Interview: Richard Steele. Also: Evander Holyfield, Roy Jones, Jesus Chavez.

Oct. 2001: Tito Power—From Fans To Foes ... Everyone's Feeling It! Interview: Lou DiBella. Also: Hasim Rahman, Vargas-Rivera, F.I.S.T.

Dec. 2001: Laila Ali: The Fighter, The Sex Symbol ... The Future Of Women's Boxing? Interview: Laila Ali. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Tim Austin, Manny Pacquiao, Hector Camacho Jr.

Feb. 2002: Bernard Hopkins: "I Am The American Dream. I Am The American Story." Interview: Wladimir Klitschko. Also: Omar Sheika, Vernon Forrest, Juan Lazcano.

April 2002: After Hitting Rock Bottom ... Lennox Is Back On The Path To Greatness. Interview: Duva Boxing. Also: Zab Judah, Mike Tyson, Thomas Tate.

June 2002: Tyson vs. Lewis: 10-Page Preview & Analysis. Interview: Jameel McCline. Also: *Ali* movie, Dorin vs. Balbi & Ward vs. Leija.

Aug. 2002: Still Crazy After All These Years: Should Mike Tyson Be Allowed To Fight? Interview: Kostya Tszyu. Also: Barrera-Morales II preview, Ayala-Adams, Ricky Hatton.

Oct. 2002: Vernon Forrest vs. Shane Mosley: Two Careers On The Line! Interview: Fernando Vargas. Also: Mayweather-Castillo, Hopkins vs. all-time greats, heavyweight scrap heap.

Dec. 2002: Wladimir Klitschko: Would He Be Too Much For Lennox? Interview: Joe Calzaghe. Also: Barrera-Morales II, Evander Holyfield, Freddie Roach.

Winter 2002: A Realistic Look At Tyson's Comeback: He Can't Make History, But He Can Make Millions. Interview: Micky Ward. Also: Antonio Tarver, Antwun Echols, Acelino Freitas.

March 2003: Oscar De La Hoya—The War That Rages Within. Interview: Klitschko brothers. Also: Kassim Ouma, Eric Morel, holiday gifts.

May 2003: Danger Zone! Will Roy Jones Be Doomed By His Heavyweight Ego? Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Gatti-Ward II, Floyd Mayweather, Erik Morales.

July 2003: Boxing's Biggest X-Factor: Can Hopkins Recover From His Self-Inflicted Wounds? Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Kostya Tszyu, DaVarryl Williamson, 10 best defensive fighters.

Sept. 2003: Sugar Roy? How Jones Rates With The All-Time Greats. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Corrie Sanders, Jean-Marc Mormeck, Kermit Cintron.

Nov. 2003: De La Hoya-Mosley II: Will Three Years And Seven Pounds Make A Difference? Interview: James Toney. Also: Michael Watson, Erik Morales, Jones-Holyfield head-to-head.

Winter 2003: *KO* Interview Arturo Gatti: "Kostya Tszyu Needs Me More Than I Need Him." Also: Mayorga-Forrest II, Zab Judah, Corrales-Casamayor preview, Joe Calzaghe.

Feb. 2004: Shane Mosley: A Second Chance At Superstardom. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Also: Laila Ali, Scott LeDoux, retirement.

April 2004: Human After All: Tarver Makes Jones Turn To Tyson. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Sharmba Mitchell, Toney-McCline preview, trash-talking.

June 2004: What Could Tyson Do To Jones? Also: Interview: Antonio Tarver. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Spinks-Mayorga.

☐ JUN/83	☐ MAY/88	☐ JAN/92	☐ MAY/98	☐ OCT/00
☐ AUG/83	☐ JUL/88	☐ MAR/92	☐ JUN/98	☐ NOV/00
☐ OCT/83	☐ AUG/88	☐ MAY/92	☐ AUG/98	☐ DEC/00
☐ JUL/84	☐ SEP/88	☐ JUN/92	☐ SEP/98	☐ FEB/01
☐ AUG/84	☐ OCT/88	☐ JUL/92	☐ NOV/98	☐ APR/01
☐ OCT/84	☐ DEC/88	☐ AUG/92	☐ DEC/98	☐ JUN/01
☐ NOV/84	☐ JAN/89	☐ SEP/92	☐ HOL/98	☐ AUG/01
☐ FEB/85	☐ FEB/89	☐ OCT/92	☐ JAN/99	☐ OCT/01
☐ MAR/85	☐ AUG/89	☐ NOV/92	☐ FEB/99	☐ DEC/01
☐ MAY/85	☐ SEP/89	☐ DEC/92	☐ MAR/99	☐ FEB/02
☐ JUL/85	☐ FEB/90	☐ JAN/93	☐ MAY/99	☐ APR/02
☐ AUG/85	☐ JUN/90	☐ FEB/93	☐ JUN/99	☐ JUN/02
☐ OCT/85	☐ JUL/90	☐ MAR/93	☐ JUL/99	☐ AUG/02
☐ NOV/85	☐ AUG/90	☐ MAY/93	☐ AUG/99	☐ OCT/02
☐ DEC/85	☐ SEP/90	☐ JUN/95	☐ SEP/99	☐ DEC/02
☐ JAN/86	☐ OCT/90	☐ JUN/96	☐ OCT/99	☐ WIN/02
☐ FEB/86	☐ NOV/90	☐ SEP/96	☐ NOV/99	☐ MAR/03
☐ JUL/86	☐ DEC/90	☐ NOV/96	☐ DEC/99	☐ MAY/03
☐ OCT/86	☐ JAN/91	☐ DEC/96	☐ HOL/99	☐ JUL/03
☐ DEC/86	☐ FEB/91	☐ WIN/96	☐ JAN/00	☐ SEP/03
☐ FEB/87	☐ MAY/91	☐ JAN/97	☐ FEB/00	☐ NOV/03
☐ JUN/87	☐ JUN/91	☐ MAR/97	☐ MAR/00	☐ WIN/03
☐ AUG/87	☐ JUL/91	☐ AUG/97	☐ MAY/00	☐ FEB/04
☐ OCT/87	☐ AUG/91	☐ DEC/97	☐ JUN/00	☐ APR/04
☐ NOV/87	☐ SEP/91	☐ HOL/97	☐ JUL/00	☐ JUN/04
☐ DEC/87	☐ OCT/91	☐ JAN/98	☐ AUG/00	
☐ JAN/88	☐ NOV/91	☐ FEB/98	☐ SEP/00	
☐ FEB/88	☐ DEC/91	☐ MAR/98		

KO MAGAZINE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

_____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery
In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

6727/04-04

New Face

(Continued from page 24)

at 7:35 a.m. During his junior year of high school, Chambers decided to run track. That commitment proved costly, as Chambers began to wear down both physically and mentally. He would be at track practice until 4 p.m., and then arrive at the boxing gym to train by 5:30 p.m.

"It wasn't an existence; it was hell. It was so hard, I felt like laying down and letting it all go, just quitting, dozens of times," Chambers recalls. "It was the kind of job that started at night and went into daybreak. There were no days off. The paper had to be delivered every day. I can't remember sleeping in those four years. If I wanted to go out, or I wanted to do other things, I couldn't. I look back and say to myself, *I don't want anything close to that*. I want to make sure my family is all going to be taken care of. I'm not going back, never."

Chambers' foundation as a diligent worker comes through in the ring. It's one of the first things Rob Murray, Chambers' manager, noted about the heavyweight. But Murray also noted something else upon first meeting "Fast Eddie."

"I was impressed by Eddie's demeanor," said Murray, who heads Pro Am Sports and was convinced by a friend living in Pittsburgh to travel from Philadelphia to see this heavyweight who moves like a middleweight. "He had a real humble demeanor. I liked his hand speed and his ability, and I saw him make moves that a 19-year-old heavyweight doesn't usually make.

"The family is very humble and the father wanted to get in touch with someone who could move Eddie, but not move the kid too fast. I was looking for the right type of athlete to be involved with. I wanted to be involved with an athlete filled with character. Eddie is it. I was impressed with the family. We sat down and they wanted to take the kid out of Pittsburgh and move him and his family to Philadelphia."

Chambers had it rough growing up in the projects in Pittsburgh, and Eddie Sr., Eddie's trainer, wanted a change of scenery for his son. The elder Chambers raised the boy by himself for the most part, since Eddie's mother left the family when Eddie was eight and didn't re-enter her son's life again until he was in his late-teens.

Eddie didn't wear the popular Timberlands, nor any gold or silver on his neck. He often didn't wear the "right" jeans, and often wasn't part of the in-crowd.

"They picked on him, the black kids in the neighborhood used to pick on Eddie," Chambers Sr. said. "Eddie was portrayed as the nerdy kid who did things right. He's easygoing. He doesn't go out of his way to bother people. Kids went out of their way to bother him."

So Eddie Sr., who used to box, started taking his son to the gym.

"I wanted to create a monster," the father said. "Eddie didn't take to boxing that quickly. We worked on some disciplines at home, and he didn't like the pain issue, and he didn't want to give any pain. But I started seeing certain things in him. Eddie was brought up in the ghetto, but he's not ghetto. Eddie's a good kid. He never had a streetfight in his life, and I've known where he's been 24 hours a day. He understands commitment."

Gradually, Chambers' movement became less wooden and more fluid in the ring. He used distance better. And anytime he was matched against larger heavyweights, Chambers' speed came out. He's sparred with Philadelphia heavyweights Gerald Nobles and Terrance Lewis, as well as world-class competitors such as Monte Barrett, Hasim Rahman, Michael Moorer, and Cliff Etienne.

"I put him in with those guys to see if Eddie had any heart, and he handled all of them," Chambers Sr. said. "Next, I'd like to see Eddie get dropped, so I know what to expect when Eddie does get dropped. What's going to happen afterward? Will he get back up? I know he can handle everything else. The important thing that I see is that not only is Eddie able to protect himself, but other guys are going to know they have a major offensive force coming at them."

Though Chambers is well-aware of some of the nightmarish endings father-son combinations have reached in boxing, he feels completely comfortable with his father as his trainer. He wouldn't want it any other way.

"Dad will always be my trainer, and my dad will bring someone in to get another voice in the corner, if it could help," Fast Eddie said. "My father isn't too proud to get information from someone outside, someone like a Bouie Fisher. But for the most part, we stay in our group. It's just too hard to adapt to another guy training me at this point in my career."

Chambers Sr. and Murray both intend to move Fast Eddie slowly. The fighter is fine with that. Previously considered small by today's heavyweight standards, Chambers has added a solid 15 pounds of muscle in the last year, and hopes to add still more weight—without sacrificing his elusiveness and quick jab. But by 2005, Chambers wants to make some real money.

"My career is at a point where I can really make something happen," Chambers said. "I know there are more and more people watching me. I can't make any mistakes now, and I need to always stay in shape. I want to make sure this thing goes perfectly, but I won't rule out being a late replacement for someone. It has to be someone fairly big, however, someone that can get me on TV.

"But I want to be careful because I have a lot of time. I'm not even 25 yet, and I've already had 19 fights. The fact that I'm young makes things so much easier. I just have to keep working hard."

That's never been a problem. ■

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) below to which you subscribe:

☐ BOXING 2005
☐ WORLD BOXING
☐ KO
☐ THE RING

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 2029, DEPT. 9
MARION, OH 43302

5757/09-01/4c

BOXING FIGHT POSTERS, PROGRAMS, ART PRINTS, T-SHIRTS, PHOTOS & AUTOGRAPHS

GREAT MOMENTS IN BOXING

8"x10" B&W Action Photos — Just $4.50 ea.

- Robinson/LaMotta Fight
- Louis-Schmeling Battle
- Dempsey beats Willard
- Marciano slugs Lastarza
- Robinson beats Basilio
- Tunney/Dempsey Battle
- Sanchez/Lopez Battle
- Pep vs Saddler Fight
- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
- Sanchez beats Gomez
- Ali floors Liston
- Hagler nails Hearns
- Leonard defeats Hearns
- Frazier upsets Ali
- Graziano - Zale classic
- Ali-Foreman Battle
- Marciano KO's Louis

8"x10" B&W Photos - Just $4.50 ea.

Ali • Basilio • Delahoya • Chavez • Corbett • Frazier
Dempsey • Duran • LaMotta • Leonard • J. Johnson
Jones Jr. • Louis • Marciano • Foreman • Hagler
Tyson • Sullivan • Robinson • Pep • Sanchez • Holyfield

8"x10" COLOR PHOTOS - $5.50 ea.

Ali • Delahoya • Hagler vs. Hearns • Chavez
Leonard vs. Hearns • Gatti • Duran • Foreman
Frazier • Hagler • Hearns • Mosley • Holyfield
Leonard • Mancini • Holyfield vs. Tyson • Louis
Ali vs. Frazier • Ali vs. Foreman • Ali KO's Liston
Marciano • Tyson • Jones Jr. • Hagler vs. Hearns

BASEBALL CAPS - $17 EA:

DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • PAZIENZA/DURAN • DELAHOYA/KAMAU
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • TYSON/BERBICK
PAZ/ROSENBLATT • DELAHOYA/RUELAS • TYSON/HOLYFIELD
HOLYFIELD/TYSON II • CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA • OSCAR DELAHOYA
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • TYSON/RUDDOCK II • JONES/PAZIENZA
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • MOORER/FOREMAN • DURAN/CAMACHO • F. TRINIDAD
JONES/GONZALEZ • DELAHOYA/CARR • F. MAYWEATHER/RIOS • R. DURAN
DELAHOYA/RIVERA • IRON MIKE TYSON • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • DELAHOYA/CHARPENTIER
MAYWHEATHR/HERNANDEZ • HAMED/BARRERA • DELAHOYA/GATTI

8 X 10 AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS

MUHAMMAD ALI $300.00
OSCAR DELAHOYA or ROY JONES . . . . . $80.00 ea.
JOE FRAZIER or FELIX TRINIDAD . . . . . $85.00 ea.
LARRY HOLMES or ANDREW GOLOTA . . . . . $45.00 ea.
MAX SCHMELING or ARCHIE MOORE . . . . . $75.00 ea.
JAKE LAMOTTA or BEAU JACK (BW) . . . . . $50.00 ea.
TIM WITHERSPOON or CARL WILLIAMS . . . . $20.00 ea.
JOHN RUIZ or ERNIE SHAVERS . . . . . $25.00 ea.
WILLIE PEP or FERNANDO VARGAS . . . . . $45.00 ea.
SUGAR RAY LEONARD or FLOYD PATTERSON $50.00 ea.
EMILE GRIFFITH or DANA ROSENBLATT . . . . $15.00 ea.
LENNOX LEWIS $85.00
CARMEN BASILIO or HECTOR CAMACHO . . . . . $35.00 ea.
CARLOS PALOMINO or M. TAYLOR . . . . . $35.00 ea.
SAAD MUHAMMAD or VINNY PAZ . . . . . $25.00 ea.
MARVIN HAGLER or KID GAVILAN (BW) . . . . $75.00 ea.
EVANDER HOLYFIELD $100.00
MIKE TYSON $150.00
TOMMY MORRISON $65.00
KEN NORTON or RAY MANCINI . . . . . $35.00 ea.
INGEMAR JOHANSSON or IRAN BARKLEY . . . . $20.00 ea.
ROBERTO DURAN or ARTURO GATTI . . . . . $35.00 ea.

FIGHT T-SHIRTS

JONES/GONZALEZ • HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • DURAN/CAMACHO • OLYMPIC TRIALS '93
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR • CHAVEZ/CAMACHO • O. DELAHOYA
ROY JONES JR. • TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
ROBERTO DURAN • LEONARD/DURAN II • MIKE TYSON
FELIX TRINIDAD • HAGLER/LEONARD • HAMED/BARRERA
MAYWHEATHER/HERNANDEZ • HOLYFIELD/HOLMES
DELAHOYA/KAMAU • DEALHOYA/WHITAKER • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY
TYSON/LEWIS • DELAHOYA/CARR & MAYWHEATHER/VARGAS
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • PAZ/ROSENBLATT • MANCINI/CAMACHO
Vinny Pazienza • LEONARD/DURAN III • LEONARD/NORRIS
DeLaHoya/Mosley II • TRINIDAD/VARGAS • PAZIENZA/DURAN II
JULIO C. CHAVEZ • DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • SHANE MOSLEY
MUHAMMAD ALI • ROCKY MARCIANO • MOSLEY/STONE
CAMACHO/EDWARDS • HAGLER/HEARNS • MANCINI/HAUGEN
HECTOR CAMACHO • DELAHOYA/GATTI • MAYWHEATHER/RIOS
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • ALI/NORTON • LEONARD/HEARNS

Just $18.00 each **(choose XL or L)**

FIGHT POSTERS

CLAY/LISTON (repro.) $25.00
CLAY/LISTON (repro.) on Canvas 40" x 24" $250.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (LeRoy Neiman Poster) $600.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (Closed Circuit) POSTER $300.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Reproduction) $25.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) NEIMAN $95.00
ALI/HOLMES (REPRINT) $20.00
ALI/HOLMES $100.00
ALI/FOREMAN (Closed Circuit) Poster $500.00
BARRERA/JONES or BARRERA/DIAZ . . . . . $25.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA or BOWE/GOLOTA II . . . . . $50.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or CHAVEZ/CAMACHO . . . . . $75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA or CHAVEZ/ALI . . . . . $10.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/LOPEZ or CHAVEZ/HAUGEN . . . . . $45.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/RANDALL, TRINIDAD/CAMACHO $45.00
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/TAYLOR II . . . . . $35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/RIVERA . . . . . $20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMPANELLA, Jones/Tate $45.00
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD . . . . . $25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II . . . . . $30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/VARGAS or DELAHOYA/GATTI . . . . . $30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/CASTILLEJO . . . . . $20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY (Spanish version) $25.00
DELAHOYA/RUELAS or DELAHOYA/HERNANDEZ . . . . . $25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or DELAHOYA/GONZALEZ . . . . . $20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/HICKS, MORRISON/TILLMAN $50.00
JACK DEMPSEY 16"X 20" B&W POSTER $45.00
DEMPSEY/WILLARD (Theatre) $600.00
DEMPSEY/TUNNEY II (Repoduction) $25.00
DURAN/BENITEZ or DURAN/CAMACHO . . . . . $25.00 ea.
FENECH/NELSON II or CZYZ/LALONDE . . . . . $45.00 ea.
FOREMAN/GRIMSLEY or FOREMAN/MORRISON . . . . . $30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CARR or FOREMAN/SAVARESE . . . . . $5.00 ea.
HAGLER/DURAN or FOREMAN/COONEY . . . . . $35.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or CHAVEZ/WHITAKER . . . . $100.00 ea.
HAGLER/LEONARD or HAGLER/MUGABI . . . . . $65.00 ea.
HAMED/SOTO or HOPKINS/MERCARDO . . . . . $5.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY II or LAZARRAGA/MEDINA . . . . . $10.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN . . . . . $30.00 ea.
HOLMES/COONEY or HOLMES/SMITH . . . . . $35.00 ea.
HOLMES/MERCER or HOLYFIELD/HOLMES . . . . $10.00 ea.
HOLMES/SHAVERS or HOLMES/M. SPINKS . . . . . $30.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE or HOLYFIELD/RAHMAN . . . . . $25.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE III or CHAVEZ/RAMIREZ . . . . $75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BYRD or TAPIA/AYALA . . . . . $20.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/CZYZ or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN . . . . . $35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MERCER or HAMED/BARRERA . . . . $45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MOORER I or II . . . . . $20.00 ea.
JONES/GRANT or JONES/MCCALLUM . . . . . $35.00 ea.
JONES/GRIFFIN II or JONES/JOHNSON . . . . . $20.00 ea.
JONES/HARDING or JONES/HARMON . . . . . $25.00 ea.
JONES/TONEY or JONES/YARBROUGH $200.00
JONES/GONZALEZ or MCCULLOUGH/ZARAGOSA $15.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II $40.00
LEONARD/DURAN III or LEONARD/LALONDE . . . $45.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II . . . . . $40.00 ea.
LEWIS/GOLOTA or LEWIS/TUCKER . . . . . $10.00 ea.
LEWIS/MCCALL or LEWIS/BRIGGS . . . . . $35.00 ea.
LEWIS/GRANT or LEWIS/BOTHA . . . . . $30.00 ea.
LEWIS/RAHMAN or LEWIS/TYSON . . . . . $25.00 ea.
MANCINI/CAMACHO or MORRISON/LEWIS . . . . $45.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or HEARNS/OBEL . . . . . $20.00 ea.
MARCIANO/WALCOTT (Reprint) or LEWIS/TUA . . $25.00 ea.
MAYWHEATHER/CORRALES or MAYWHEATHER/CASTILLO I or II . . . $10.00 ea.
MORALES/BARRERA II (English or Spanish) . . . . . $20.00 ea.
MORALES/MCCULLOUGH or MORALES/RAMIREZ . . . . . $5.00 ea
MORRISON/HIDE or SAVARESE/DOUGLAS . . . . . $10.00 ea.
MORRISON/MERCER or TYSON/GOLOTA . . . . . $35.00 ea.
MOSLEY/TAYLOR or MOSLEY/DIAZ . . . . . $10.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or NUNN/KALAMBAY . . . . . $45.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/CAMACHO or PAZIENZA/DURAN . . . . . $50.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/DURAN II or PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT . $20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/PETTWAY . . . . . $20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/THIAM or TRINIDAD/VARGAS . . . . . $35.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/CHERIFI or TRIPLE HITTER - Duran/Sims . $25.00
TYSON/BERBICK (LeRoy Neiman) $150.00
TYSON/BRUNO II or TYSON/MCNEELEY . . . . . $20.00 ea.
TYSON/DOUGLAS $225.00
TYSON/HOLMES or TYSON/BIGGS . . . . . $35.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 (Cancelled) $25.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '96 or TYSON/SELDON $65.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II - 5/3/97 (Cancelled) $5.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II $10.00
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/FRANCIS . . . . . $50.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/THOMAS . . . . . $150.00 ea.
TYSON/TUCKER or TYSON/TILLMAN . . . . . $45.00 ea.
MIKE TYSON or SUGAR RAY LEONARD Sports III. Poster . . $15.00
MUHAMMAD ALI – Everlast Poster $15.00

FIGHT PROGRAMS

ALI/BUGNER or ALI/MATHIS . . . . . $400.00 ea.
ALI/COOPER II or ALI/LONDON . . . . . $350.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN or ALI/BUGNER (Closed Circuits) . $100.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER or ALI/INOKI (Closed Circuits) . $150.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER or ALI/MILDENBERGER . . . . . $1000.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER II or FRAZIER/FOREMAN . . . . . $500.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) $100.00
ALI/HOLMES or ALI/NORTON III . . . . . $125.00 ea.
ALI/NORTON (warehouse find) Now just $75.00
ALI/NORTON II or ALI/YOUNG . . . . . $600.00 ea.
ALI/QUARRY II or TYSON/GREEN . . . . . $500.00 ea.
ALI/ROBINSON or ALI/WILLIAMS . . . . . $450.00 ea.
ALI/SPINKS (VG) or ALI/SPINKS II . . . . . $250.00 ea.
BENN/MCCLELLAN or HAGLER/HAMSHO II . . . $50.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA I or II . . . . . $35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/DURAN or CAMACHO/RAMIREZ . . . $25.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO, plus Tyson $50.00
CARBAJAL/GONZALEZ, Delahoya/J. Maywheather . . $50.00
CHAVEZ/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD . $40.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/KAMAU or PAZ/LUCAS . . . . . $10.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/MAYWHEATHER II or SAAD/BRAXTON . $25.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/RANDALL . . . . . $35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA PRO DEBUT or FRAZIER/FOREMAN . $500.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/CARR . . $30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/GATTI or DELAHOYA/CHARPENTIER . $25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/TYSON . . . $45.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II . . $35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or HOLYFIELD/MOORER . $45.00 ea.
DURAN/GONZALEZ '99 or FOREMAN/STEWART $45.00 ea.
FOREMAN/QAWI or VARGAS/QUARTEY . . . . $35.00 ea.
GATTI/ROBINSON II, VARGAS/CAMPAS $45.00
HAGLER/HEARNS or HAGLER/ROLDAN . . . . . $66.00 ea.
HAGLER/MUGABI or HAGLER/OBEL . . . . . $45.00 ea.
HAMED/KELLY or HAMED/BARRERA . . . . . $40.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY I or II . . . . . $35.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN . . . . . $25.00 ea.
HOLMES/MERCER or LEONARD/CAMACHO . . $15.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE I, II or III . . . . . $75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN or HOLYFIELD/LEWIS . . . . $75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or CAMACHO/HAUGEN II . $35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/LEWIS II or HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II . . . $25.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/QAWI or PALOMINO/STRACY . . . $150.00 ea.
ROY JONES PRO DEBUT or SANCHEZ/LOPEZ . . $600.00 ea.
JONES/DELVALLE or JONES/JOHNSON . . . . . $30.00 ea.
JONES/SOSA or JONES/GRIFFIN . . . . . $25.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN $125.00
LEONARD/DURAN II $50.00
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II . . . . . $65.00 ea.
LEWIS/BRUNO or LEWIS/MCCALL . . . . . $45.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUCKER or LEWIS/GOLOTA . . . . . $30.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUA or LEWIS/RUDDOCK . . . . . $50.00 ea.
LOUIS/NOVA or ROBINSON/DOWNES . . . . . $500.00 ea.
MANCINI/CAMACHO or PALOMINO/GREEN . . $75.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or MANCINI/ESPANA . . . $25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/BURGESE & JONES JR./JOHNSON $60.00
PAZIENZA/DURAN I or II . . . . . $25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/GRAHAM . . . . $40.00 ea.
SANCHEZ/GOMEZ or ROBINSON/TURPIN . . . . $300.00 ea.
TYSON/FRANCIS or MANCINI/BRAMBLE II . . . $50.00 ea.
TYSON/BRUNO or TYSON/HOLMES . . . . . $100.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD I or II . . . . . $20.00 ea.
TYSON/MCNEELEY or TYSON/NORRIS . . . . . $15.00 ea.
TYSON/SPINKS or TYSON/NEILSEN . . . . . $85.00 ea.
TYSON/SMITH or TYSON/SAVARESE . . . . . $45.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/TILLMAN . . . . . $75.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/DOUGLAS . . . . . $250.00 ea.
TYSON/BIGGS or TYSON/BRUNO II . . . . . $80.00 ea.
TYSON/RIBALTA or TYSON/NELSON . . . . . $1000.00 ea.

AUTOGRAPHED BOXING GLOVES

(Single Gloves, Guaranteed Authentic)

Roberto Duran or Vinny Pazienza . . . . . $110.00 ea.
Joe Frazier or Jake LaMotta . . . . . $175.00 ea.
Muhammad Ali or Evander Holyfield . . . $400.00 ea.
Marvin Hagler or Bernard Hopkins . . $150.00 ea.
Sugar Ray Leonard . . . . . $100.00 ea.
Ray Mancini or Arturo Gatti . . . . . $100.00 ea.
Shane Mosley or Michael Spinks . . . . . $150.00 ea.
Mike Tyson $250.00
Larry Holmes or Tommy Morrison . . . . $125.00 ea.
Oscar de la Hoya or Roy Jones . . . . . $195.00 ea.
Carmen Basilio or Vito Antuofermo . . . $95.00 ea.
Archie Moore or Lennox Lewis . . . . . $200.00 ea.
LEONARD & DURAN (By Both) $200.00
Felix Trinidad or Fernando Vargas $175.00
Willie Pep or Kid Gavilan $175.00
Hector Camacho or Alexis Arguello $125.00

Ordering Info.: Please include $7 P&H per package (Foreign Countries $15 per package ground or $25 air)

Send To: Bob Pace, P.O. Box 698, Lynnfield, MA 01940 or call w/AMEX, Disc., VISA or MC — (781) 284-4954

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Lamon Brewster W 12 Kali Meehan
Yamplier Azcuy KO 1 Juan Carlos Gomez
Sinan Samil Sam KO 3 Sergey Dychkov
Owen Beck KO 1 Troy Weida
Timo Hoffman KO 7 Tipton Walker
Malcolm Tann KO 2 Andrew Greeley
Fabio Moli KO 2 Miguel Angel Aguirre
Sultan Ibragimov KO 5 Onebo Maxime
Mario Preskar W 4 John Turlington

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Johnny Nelson KO 7 Rudiger May
O'Neil Bell KO 2 Ezra Sellers
Enzo Macarinelli KO 3 Jesper Kristiansen
Ehinomen Ehikhamenor KO 3 John Battle
Jacqui Frazier-Lyde W 4 Carley Pesente

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Paul Briggs W 12 Stipe Drews
Hugo Garay KO 1 Nestor Casanova
George Jones W 8 Derrick Whitley
Thomas Reid W 10 Etienne Whitaker
Arturo Rivera W 12 Luis Vazquez
Julio Cesar Green KO 2 Feliberto Alvarez

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Anthony Mundine KO 10 Sean Sullivan
David Estrada KO 1 Tony Ray Kern
Jose Spearman W 8 Rasheem Brown
Max Heyman KO 4 Joseph Brady
Francisco Mora W 8 Fernando Vera
Dean Cockburn W 10 Dean Walker
Cornelius Bundridge KO 1 William Harmon

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Michele Piccirillo KO 1 Lorant Szabo
Alejandro Garcia KO 5 Jonathan Corn
Arthur Abraham KO 12 Nader Hamdan
Daniel Edouard KO 4 Willie Gibbs
Danny Perez W 10 Marcos Primera
Ian Gardner W 10 Kuvanych Toygonbayev

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

Super middleweight Rasheem Brown belts Jose Spearman in a losing effort

Epifanio Mendoza KO 1 John Hammond
Charles Whittaker W 12 Chantel Stanciel
Jose Luis Zertuche KO 1 Rito Ruvalcaba
Fulgencio Zuniga W 10 George Walton
Carlos Quintana W 8 Kamel Kolonivic
Gary Lockett KO 3 Michael Monaghan
Daniel Dawson KO 2 Chaovalith Jockygym
Francisco Diaz W 8 Guadalupe Martinez
Jesus Gonzales W 6 Shay Mobley
Elvin Ayala W 6 Julio Jean
James McGirt Jr. W 6 Cardyl Finley

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Eddie Sanchez W 12 J.C. Candelo
Manuel Gomez KO 3 Ian MacKillop
Rhoshii Wells Tech. Win 9
Santiago Samaniego
Armando Velardez KO 8 Matt Vanda
Hector Camacho Jr. D 10 Marteze Logan
Mauro Lucero W 10 Saul Duran
Mark Suarez KO 4 Jason Papillion
Marlon Thomas KO 1 Nelson Manchego

WELTERWEIGHTS

Cory Spinks W 12 Miguel Angel Gonzalez
(Retains World Title)
Juan Carlos Rubio KO 10 Raul Franco
Cosme Rivera KO 4 Hercules Kyvelos
Bolillo Gonzalez KO 6 Wilmer Gonzales
Reggie Nash W 8 Ivan Robinson
Ajose Olusegun KO 4 Bradley Pryce
Chad Bennett Tech. Draw 2
Paolo Sithsopha
Delvin Rodriguez W 6 Allen Conyers
Francisco Figueroa KO 4 Matt McKart

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Lovemore Ndou KO 5
Ruben Francisco Diaz
Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. KO 4
Miguel Angel Galindo
Herman Ngoudjo W 4 Jorge Alberto Padilla
Mary Jo Sanders KO 9 Lisa Holewyne
Mia St. John W 6 Ragan Pudwill

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Ryuhei Sugita W 10 Kiyomasa Ozeki
Gavin Rees W 6 Carl Allen
Fujimi Victorygym W Disq. 8
Noel Panescoro

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Cuauhtemoc Gomez D 10 David Murillo
Akira Yamazaki W 10 Jeffrey Onate
Jason Litzau KO 5 Jesus Perez
Verquan Kimbrough W 6 Chris Burford

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Cory Spinks outboxes Miguel Angel Gonzalez in defense of the welter title

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Oscar Larios W 10 Ivan Alvarez
(Non-Title Bout)
Nedal Hussein KO 6 Pedro Javier Torres
Agapito Sanchez W 10 Francisco Mateos
Gary St. Clair W 12 Decho Bankluaygym
Valdemir Pereira W 10 Emmanuel Lucero
Hector Velazquez KO 5
Conception Velasquez
Alberto Servidei W 12 Claudio Tapia
Bernard Dunne W 10 Adrian Valdez
Hiroyuki Enoki KO 9 Dainoshin Kuma
Jose Miranda KO 2 Roynet Caballero
Juan Ruiz KO 8 Jose Mendoza
Martin Honorio KO 2 Giovanni Andrade
Norihisa Tomimoto W 10 Yuta Nagai
Cornelius Lock KO 6 Angel Mata
Martin Honorio KO 6 Martin Bermudez
Priest Smalls W 8 Anthony Martinez
Raymundo Beltran KO 4 Ivan Cazarez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Mauricio Martinez KO 3 Carlos Rivas
Adan Vargas W 10 Julio Coronell
Somsak Sithchatchawal W 12
Simson Butar Butar
Erik Rodriguez KO 3 Heriberto Velasquez
Saenghiran Lookbanyai KO 9
Pedrito Laurente
Akio Konishi Tech. Win 6 Joven Jorda

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Fernando Montiel KO 7 Reynaldo Hurtado
Jhonny Gonzalez KO 3 Hugo Vargas
Jose Nieves KO 8 Alberto Ontiveros
Hengky Wuwungan W 10 Celso Danggod
Ryuichi Minoriyama W 6 Masayuki Sekine

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Luis Maldonado KO 5 Francisco Garcia
Mbwana Matumla W 12 Simon Ramoni
Jose Luis Araiza W 10 Giovanni Urbina
Gabriel Munoz KO 2 Cruz Molina

FLYWEIGHTS

Lorenzo Parra W 12 Yosam Choi
(Retains WBA Title)
Mzukisi Sikali W 12 Monelisi Myekeni
Jose Antonio Aguirre KO 4 Freddy Valdez
Francisco Arce KO 2 Carlos Banuelos

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Jorge Arce W 12 Juanito Rubillar
(Retains WBC Title)
Eric Ortiz Tech. Win 5 Wyndel Janiola
Valentin Leon Tech. Draw 6
Juan Carlos Perez

STRAWWEIGHTS

Lorenzo Trejo KO 8 Oscar Murillo
Nkosinathi Joyi W 12 Wele Maqolo
Ronald Barrera W 10 Gustavo Cortez
Junichiro Kaneda KO 2
Yodkeng Singwangcha

EVERLAST
BOXING EQUIPMENT
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK
PRESENTS

The RING

FIGHTER of the MONTH

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

In the time period under consideration for this issue's Fighter of the Month honors, from the second week of August through the first week of September, there wasn't much going on in the way of big fights. But there were two fighters who took a medium-sized fight and *made* it big, fighting for short money on ESPN2 and participating in a war that had the boxing world unexpectedly buzzing. Those two fighters were Daniel Edouard and Willie Gibbs, and by emerging victorious from their Fight of the Year-type battle, Edouard secured recognition as the month's most noteworthy pugilistic performer.

Edouard showed guts (especially after being badly hurt in round one), skill (at least more of it than Gibbs), and power (on more occasions than Gibbs would like to recall). In the end he tallied by far the biggest win of his 2½-year career, making the leap from prospect to fringe contender with an emphatic fourth-round knockout.

No, it wasn't a superfight—not even close. But it was a super showing by Edouard, and in a slow month, that was more than enough to stand out.

• • • •

Daniel Edouard

RINGSIDE REPORTS

Cory Spinks W 12 Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Las Vegas, Nevada: With a father and an uncle who are both former world champions, each time Spinks steps into the ring he has to prove that he can fight and is not just living off the Spinks name. At the Mandalay Bay Events Center, in front of 9,128 fans, Spinks took on former lightweight titlist Gonzalez, and took another small step toward proving his worth by controlling the fight and winning a 12-round unanimous decision, retaining the unified world welterweight title for the second time. Gonzalez, Ensenada, Mexico, always comes to fight, but the hand speed and footwork displayed by the much bigger Spinks, St. Louis, Missouri, was just too much for the tough 33-year-old Mexican to handle.

From the start, both Spinks, 147, and Gonzalez, 146½, fought at a fast pace, with heavy underdog Gonzalez enjoying a good opening round. But as the fight progressed and Gonzalez moved forward trying to land his right hand—that usually works against a southpaw—Spinks would counter with good right-left-right combinations that pushed Gonzalez' head back.

Early on, Gonzalez worked Spinks' body well, but he left his head open for counters when he went downstairs. In the sixth, Gonzalez had success with his right hand and knocked Spinks' head back a few times, but the seventh round was all Spinks, who made a beautiful demonstration of his skill by throwing hard bodyshots and headshots in four- and five-punch combinations.

After throwing borderline bodyshots and being warned a few times by referee Joe Cortez (USA), Gonzalez was finally penalized a point in the eighth. But he continued trying to work Spinks' body.

Gonzalez had some good spurts in the final round, but the 26-year-old undisputed champion was still far too slick, landing jab after jab and then moving out of the way of punches and countering back with more fast shots. Gonzalez kept trying, however, right up until the final bell, and the fans rose to their feet at the end in appreciation of Spinks' skills and Gonzalez' guts.

All three judges at ringside, Jerry Roth (USA), Duane Ford (USA), and Carol Castellano (USA), scored the fight 118-109 for Spinks. THE RING scored it 117-110 for Spinks.

Gonzalez, 49-4-1 (39), didn't take anywhere near as one-sided and brutal a beating as he was given by Kostya Tszyu back in 1999. In fact, he may have taken more punishment in his decision loss to Manuel Gomez in 2001. But he was still impressed with the champion and knew he had lost convincingly. "He was just too elusive," Gonzalez reflected. "Whatever I tried, he had an answer for it."

Spinks, 34-2 (11), admitted, "Gonzalez is tough," but went on to say "I'm satisfied with my performance. I dominated the fight. What more could I ask for?"

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(9-4-04)

Wayne McCullough

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Welter champ Spinks rips Gonzalez with a left hand

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Brewster lands a hook en route to controversial win

Lamon Brewster W 12 Kali Meehan

Las Vegas, Nevada: There's always a risk when fighting a former sparring partner that the ex-sparmate will know you a little too well. Whether that was the specific problem for Brewster against Meehan is up for debate, but certainly Brewster had his hands full at Mandalay Bay Events Center, pulling out a controversial split decision win after 12 close rounds.

"I definitely felt I had done enough to win," Brewster said afterward, expressing a sentiment not everybody agreed with. "I told everyone he was a tough fighter before the fight."

Brewster had used the relatively unknown Meehan as a sparring partner in preparation for his April '04 victory over Wladimir Klitschko, and the first few rounds of the Brewster-Meehan fight, it had the appearance of one of their sparring sessions. Neither boxer was eager to force the action. The 6'5" Meehan was focusing primarily on keeping the 6'1" Brewster at the end of his long left jab (with mixed success), while Brewster would fight in bursts and steal some of the close rounds.

By the sixth round, the pace had picked up and both Meehan, 236, Wyongah, Australia, and Brewster, 227, Los Angeles, California, were engaging in action along the ropes and landing good hooks to each other's head and body.

The most significant turn of events came in the eighth, when Meehan landed a right hand that stunned Brewster. The mechanical Australian moved in looking for the finish and hit Brewster with right hands to the head and good hooks to the body for more than a minute, but Brewster kept throwing occasional punches to prevent referee Jay Nady (USA) from stepping in and stopping the fight. Brewster showed a lot of heart taking the shots Meehan was throwing at him and survived to hear the bell ending the round.

Round eight was a big round for Meehan, but it looked in the ensuing rounds like he'd punched himself out to a degree. He let Brewster off the hook and, with both fighters going past the 10th round for the first time in their careers, Meehan, 29-2 (23), allowed Brewster, 30-2 (27), to win the ninth through 11th rounds.

But Meehan bounced back and controlled the final three minutes by landing several good straight right hands. As it turned out, the fight was even going into the 12th, but instead of pulling out the win with his strong final round, Meehan came out on the losing end after two of the judges dubiously scored round 12 for Brewster. Judge Nelson Vasquez (USA) scored the fight 115-113 for Brewster and Dave Moretti (USA) had it 114-113 for Brewster, while Adelaide Byrd (USA) gave Meehan the final round to finish with a tally of 114-113 for Meehan. THE RING saw it 114-113 for Meehan as well.

After the fight, Meehan, 34, said, "My goal was to win, but I hope I gained some fans in America."

Brewster, 31, didn't seem disappointed in himself, even though his punch output was extremely low and many fans were booing the verdict.

"I needed this fight to see where I'm at and to get the rust off," he said. "Next time I fight there's going to be stars. I'm going straight back to the gym."

Promoter Don King said afterward that Brewster will probably fight legend of the ring Evander Holyfield before the end of the year, provided Brewster recovers quickly enough from the punishment he took against Meehan.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(9-4-04)

Wayne McCullough

O'Neil Bell KO 2 Ezra Sellers

Las Vegas, Nevada: Unbeaten over the last six years, THE RING'S fourth-ranked cruiserweight, Bell, is in position to finally get his overdue title shot after easily disposing of Sellers on the off-TV portion of the Brewster-Meehan undercard at the Mandalay Bay Events Center. Bell put on a fireworks display in winning the battle of heavy punchers, knocking out Sellers in the second round to become the mandatory challenger to IBF beltholder Kelvin Davis.

"I didn't expect to finish him so early," Bell stated afterward. "The goal was to come out and set a fast pace. I was thinking I could end it by the fourth."

Bell was the favorite, based in large part on his and Sellers' results against common opponent Davis. In May 2003, Bell scored an 11th-round stoppage over Davis in a tough fight, whereas Sellers lost to Davis in May '04 via eighth-round TKO. Based on that performance, Sellers, 36, seemed to be in sharp decline as a fighter.

The opening round was relatively slow and cautious, as Bell, 199, Atlanta, Georgia, seemed to be looking for one big shot, while southpaw Sellers, 200, Pensacola, Florida, stayed on the outside and kept away from Bell's big right hand. Just as the bell sounded to end the round, Bell, 29, scored with the stanza's only significant punch, a crisp right hand that landed on Sellers' jaw.

The pace picked up in the second, and the superior technician, Bell, started landing his right hand at will. Sellers tried to slug with him, but he couldn't get out of the way of the younger man's right, and finally, nearly two minutes into the round, a clean right put Sellers down.

Referee Vic Drakulich (USA) counted out Sellers, 27-7 (24), at 2:04 of the round.

Bell, 23-1-1 (22), is now in line to challenge the man he has already beaten, Davis. "This was an excellent win for me," said Bell. "It puts me number one in the IBF. Eventually I expect to be number one across the board. I've said it before: It doesn't matter to me which of the champions I fight."

Sellers said of his loss, "It's part of the game. What can I say? This is discouraging, but I will be back."

Promoter: Don King Productions

(9-4-04)

Wayne McCullough

Yodsanan Nanthachai W 12 Steve Forbes

Ledyard, Connecticut: Like many fighters from Thailand, Yodsanan changes his name frequently, and lately he's been calling himself "Yodsanan 3K Battery." But in his American debut in August at Foxwoods Casino, the WBA super featherweight beltholder was more like an Energizer battery. In his summer smackdown with former IBF titlist Forbes, the slick southpaw just kept going and going and going. And when it was over, the real battery was what Yodsanan, 130, performed on Forbes, 130, Las Vegas, Nevada, the unfortunate recipient of his tactical assault.

The fight belonged to Yodsanan from the opening bell, as he kept Forbes off-balance with straight right jabs and hard left crosses upstairs throughout the first three rounds. Meanwhile, the befuddled Forbes found himself in an unfamiliar position, often reeling backward from Yodsanan's right hands and having few answers in return. With Yodsanan's superior feet dictating the dance, Forbes struggled to get off on his punches.

It wasn't until the fourth round that such an opportunity came about, as Forbes finally unloaded swift combinations to Yodsanan's body, injecting life into the sellout crowd (predominantly on hand for the Diego Corrales-Acelino Freitas headliner) for the first time during the bout. However, Forbes' rally attempts were often met with swift counters, as Yodsanan responded with looping left hands that landed solidly on Forbes' sturdy chin.

"I thought that I was able to hurt him a few times," Forbes said after the fight. "He didn't really hurt me. I didn't expect him to move around as much as he did, and that kind of threw me off."

But if Forbes, 27, ever had a chance to cash in at the casino, it was in the seventh and eighth rounds, easily his two best of the night. With "3K Battery" in need of some recharging, Forbes, 24-3 (7), did his best to capitalize against his tiring opponent, scoring with effective combinations and taking few in return. It was on the inside that Forbes was most effective, as he scored often in these rounds with short right crosses to Yodsanan's temple.

But Yodsanan, 33, quickly dashed any hopes of a come-from-behind win, controlling the last four rounds with ripping combinations to Forbes' head and midsection, leaving little doubt in the minds of the ringside judges. All three saw things the same way, as Luis Rivera (USA), Hubert Earle (Canada), and Don O'Neill (USA) tallied up identical 117-111 scores for the busier, craftier Yodsanan, 43-2-1 (35). THE RING scored it 118-110 for Yodsanan.

The referee of the bout was Charles Dwyer (USA).

Promoter: Gary Shaw Productions

(8-7-04)

Ted Bodenrader

Sharmba Mitchell KO 2 Moises Pedroza

Ledyard, Connecticut: Before getting in stride with his long-term goals, Mitchell had to take care of a little legwork first, kicking aside unheralded Pedroza of Colombia in two swift rounds on the off-Showtime undercard of the Corrales-Freitas fight at Foxwoods Casino.

Not long after referee Charles Dwyer (USA) counted out Pedroza, 24-8-1 (21), with a mere five seconds to go in the second round, the Washington, D.C., southpaw turned his attention to the fellah sitting ringside in the black tuxedo. The easy win set in motion a tasty November 6 rematch for Mitchell with 140-pound champion Kostya Tszyu, who spent the evening providing television commentary for an overseas feed of the show.

Few forgot that it was Mitchell who gave Tszyu all he could handle in their 2001 meeting before bowing out with a nagging knee injury at the close of the seventh round. But Tszyu, taking in Mitchell-Pedroza ringside with a headset clasped over his ears, was hardly impressed with the performance, likening the scheduled 10-rounder to a "sparring session."

Nonetheless, Mitchell, 55-3 (30), who has campaigned diligently for a return crack at Tszyu for three years, came through in style against his overmatched opponent. Mitchell, 142, bearing snazzy blue and white trunks, dictated the early dance with his jab. Pedroza, 142, ate these popping rights with little reply.

Pedroza would fire back in the second round, however, landing a thudding right on Mitchell's temple that acted as an immediate wake-up call.

"He was heavy handed as hell," Mitchell, 33, admitted afterward. "He did hit me once and it dazed me for a minute. I could tell when I was blocking his punches that his hands were heavy and that he can punch. So I knew I had to put something together to get him out of here."

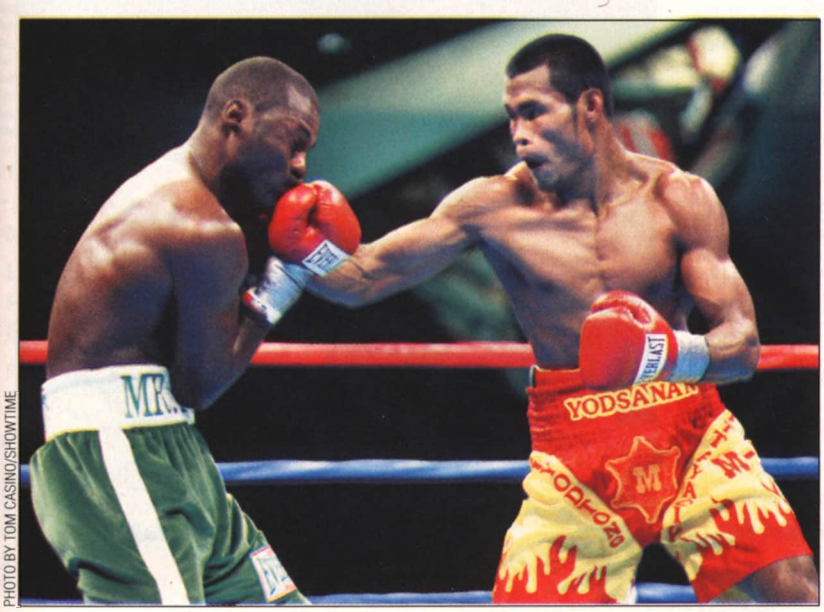


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Yodsanan drops a right through Forbes' guard

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

Mitchell opens up on overmatched Pedroza

That's precisely what Mitchell did, opening up with hard combinations and bewildering the 36-year-old Pedroza with speedy footwork. As the round wound down, Mitchell unloaded three scorching shots to Pedroza's body, setting up what came next: a vicious left hook on the chin that dropped the Colombian flat on his back.

Pedroza slouched his head back against the ringpost as if it was a pillow, but it was Dwyer who ultimately tucked him in for the night. While the ensuing 10-count bid him a hearty farewell, it also cleared the way for one the year's most anticipated rematches.

Promoter: Gary Shaw Productions

(8-7-04)

Ted Bodenrader

Daniel Edouard KO 4 Willie Gibbs

Uncasville, Connecticut: In the sort of give-and-take brawl that thrills fans and shortens careers, Edouard withstood Gibbs' best punches to pound out a fourth-round TKO victory in a heart-stopping shootout that closed out ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights*' season of live fights in spectacular fashion.

Both middleweights entered the ring at Mohegan Sun undefeated, but due to the fact that Edouard was coming off a pair of lackluster draws with Dorian Beaupierre, Gibbs, who calls himself "The Gladiator," was slightly favored. The scheduled 12-rounder began at a punishing pace and never let up until referee Charles Dwyer (USA) stepped in and ended the carnage at the 2:45 mark of the fourth round.

Neither man wasted any time feeling out the other, and two-way action commenced shortly after the opening bell. Edouard, a Haitian now living in West Palm Beach, Florida, seemed to have the upper hand in the early slugging, but Gibbs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, came off the ropes with a right hook that dramatically wobbled Edouard, who staggered backward on unsteady legs.

Gibbs sprang forward and landed three more rights, two to the head and one to the body. Edouard, 160, grabbed and went down in a tangle of arms and legs, and even though he was clearly feeling the effects of Gibbs' bombardment, Dwyer ruled no knockdown and the bell soon saved "The Haitian Sensation" from further abuse.

In the second round, Gibbs was marching forward, scoring with rights to the body, when he ran into a hard counter right. Edouard soon had Gibbs on the ropes, where he twice buckled him with thudding rights. It looked momentarily like Dwyer was going to stop the fight, but as he stepped between the combatants, Gibbs tumbled to the floor for the first official knockdown of the bout. Gibbs beat the count, and the bell rang before Edouard could inflict any more damage.

Gibbs, also 160, was given extra time to recover when the ringside physician waited until after the 60-second rest period before examining him. The additional time seemed to revive him slightly.

Having found a home for his right hand, Edouard continued to hammer away with it in the third. Gibbs, whose legs still looked shaky, fired back the best he could, and finally stalled his foe's assault with a flurry of his own the last 20 seconds of the round.

A left hook from Gibbs had Edouard retreating early in the fourth, but it wasn't long before he turned things back in his favor with a right-left that staggered Gibbs yet again. With his adversary on the ropes and in deep trouble, Edouard stormed in for the finish and landed a series of rights to the head. Gibbs absorbed six in a row and then pitched forward onto the canvas. Gibbs more than lived up to his nickname by lurching up inside of the count, but he was very unsteady, and Dwyer wisely called it off.

The loss dropped the 28-year-old Gibbs to 17-1 (14), while Edouard, 27, raised his record to 16-0-2 (9). A rematch would obviously be a crowd-pleaser, but considering that both warriors visited the hospital after their grueling encounter, perhaps a less taxing course of action would be more beneficial.

Promoter: Cappiello Promotions

(8-27-04) ■

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

Edouard finds Gibbs with one of his crushing right hands

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 88/2004

Offering a fresh perspective on the fight game through the eyes of its top-notch writers, columnists, and photographers, "The Fight Fan's Magazine" has earned recognition as one of the top boxing magazines around. Back issues are available for selected issues. Our supplies are limited. Order today!

Jan. 1988: Why Marvin Hagler Must Return, By Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Roberto Duran, Vinny Pazienza, Darrin Van Horn, Marlon Starling, Holyfield-Qawi preview.

Feb. 1988: Mike Tyson: Awesome When It Counts. Also: Pazienza-Haugen, Matthew Hilton, Tim Witherspoon, guide to heavyweights.

March 1988: A Look Back At '87, And A Look Ahead To '88. Also: Bobby Czyz, Julio Cesar Chavez, Tyson-Holmes preview.

April 1988: Thomas Hearns: Why He Will Beat Leonard And Hagler … And Why He Won't. Also: Mike McCallum, Ramirez-Whitaker preview, light heavyweights.

May 1988: Leonard, Hagler, Camacho, Spinks: Have You Seen These Men? Also: Mike Tyson, Donny Lalonde, Wimpy Halstead, Holyfield-Cooper preview.

June 1988: The Tyson-Spinks Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '88. Also: Greg Haugen, McGirt-Warren, Starling-Breland II preview.

July 1988: Tyson's Former Trainer Reveals: "Michael Spinks Will Knock Out Mike Tyson!" Also: Whitaker-Ramirez, Carlos Zarate, Hearns-Barkley preview.

Aug. 1988: Tyson vs. Spinks: Preview & Analysis Of Superfight '88. Also: Haugen-Santana, Roger Mayweather, Julio Cesar Chavez, superfights.

Sept. 1988: A Revealing Look At Boxing's Best And Worst. Also: Dennis Andries, Calvin Grove, Tate-Nunn preview.

Oct. 1988: No Doubts Remain: Mike Tyson Defeats Spinks For The Undisputed Championship. Also: Thomas Hearns, Davey Moore, Haugen-Rosario preview, deserving and undeserving contenders.

Nov. 1988: Mike Tyson vs. The Heavyweight Greats: Ali, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano. Also: Orlando Canizales, John Mugabi, Evander Holyfield, Ray Mancini, Chavez-Ramirez preview.

Dec. 1988: Leonard vs. Lalonde: Can Sugar Ray Actually Lose? Also: Michael Spinks, Michael Nunn, Julian Jackson, fighters in peril.

Feb. 1989: Tyson vs. Bruno: A Mismatch No Longer? Also: Vito Antuofermo, Orlin Norris, key moments in boxing history, Louie Lomeli, Michael Moorer.

March 1989: A Look Back At '88, And A Look Ahead To '89. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Darrin Van Horn, Haugen-Whitaker preview.

May 1989: Will Tyson Survive 1989? A Boxing 89 Debate. Also: Frank Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Willem Dafoe.

July 1989: Born Again … Again: Duran Conquers Barkley. Also: Tyson-Bruno, Olympians, Tommy Gallagher, Chavez-Mayweather preview.

Sept. 1989: Sugar Ray Robinson: Photographic Tribute To The Master. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Mark Breland, Richard Steele, Tyson-Williams preview.

Nov. 1989: 10 Reasons Why Thomas Hearns Punished Ray Leonard. Also: Michael Moorer, Orlando Canizales, Al Braverman, Chavez-Taylor preview.

Jan. 1990: Who Should Tyson Fight: Evander Holyfield Or George Foreman? Also: Pernell Whitaker, Felt Forum, Ross Greenburg, Leonard-Duran preview.

Sept. 1990: The Light Heavyweights' Star-Studded Future. Also: Starling-Nunn, Tracy Spann, George Benton, John L. Sullivan, Tyson-Foreman preview.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: It's Coming! Also: Bobby Czyz, Jeff Lampkin, Sean O'Grady, Bob Fitzsimmons, Nunn-Curry preview.

Jan. 1991: No More Lightweight Concerns: Is Pernell Whitaker The Man To Beat Chavez? Also: Aaron Davis, Pazienza-Haugen III, Roberto Duran, Bill Parcells, Tommy Burns, Williams-Moorer preview.

March 1991: Who Will Survive In 1991? Also: Holyfield-Douglas, Nunn-Curry, Buddy McGirt, Jess Willard, Nelson-Fenech preview.

May 1991: The Heavyweight Division: Alive And Punching. Also: Simon Brown, Marcos Villasana, Year That Was: 1964, Gene Tunney, Chavez-Taylor preview.

July 1991: Terry Norris Defeats A Legend, But Can He Become A Star? Also: Julian Jackson, Camacho-Haugen, Sugar Ray Leonard, Jack Sharkey, McCallum-Nunn preview.

Sept. 1991: It Was No Joke: Rev. George Makes Believers Of Us All. Also: Jerry Buss, Max Baer, Reggie Johnson, Riddick Bowe, Tommy Morrison, Bruce Seldon, Michael Moorer, Jake Rodriguez.

Nov. 1991: Ruddock Stood Tall, But Holyfield Will Fall: Mike Tyson Still Has What It Takes. Also: Kid Akeem, superstitions, would-be superstars, Joe Louis, Hearns-Czyz preview.

Jan. 1992: The Holyfield-Tyson Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '91. Also: Riddick Bowe, Great Western Forum, Bobby Czyz.

May 1992: Boxing's Four-Star Future: Toney, Bowe, Norris, And McGirt. Also: McCallum-Toney, Junior Jones, Sonny Liston, Year That Was: 1980, Chavez-McGirt preview.

July 1992: Larry "Old Folk" Holmes: A One-Fight Wonder Or A Real Title Threat? Also: Mike Tyson, Vinny Pazienza, Toney-Tiberi, Joe Frazier, McGirt-Taylor II preview.

Sept. 1992: Foreman, Get Out Now! Before You Get Seriously Hurt! Also: Greg Haugen, Gerald McClellan, Julio Cesar Chavez, Toney-Jackson, history of the heavyweights.

Nov. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes: Should We Have Expected Anything More? Also: Joey Gamache, Lamar Parks, Toney & Jackson, The Year That Was: 1968, Hall of Fame weekend, McGirt-Blocker preview.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: *Finally*, A Real Challenge For "The Real Deal." Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Carbajal, cruiserweights, Senate hearings.

March 1993: The Heavyweight Hangers-On: Former Champions Dream The Impossible Dream. Also: Roberto Duran, Jesse James Leija, champions stay/go, The Year That Was: 1956.

May 1993: Heavyweight Champion Riddick Bowe: Boxing 93 Names The Man Who Will Beat Him! Also: Vinny Pazienza, Whitaker-McGirt preview, 1992: The Year In Pictures.

July 1993: The Undisputed Bad Boy Of Boxing: James Toney Whips Iran Barkley. Also: Tony Lopez, Kostya Tszyu, Julio Cesar Chavez, The Year That Was: 1977, Jones-Hopkins.

March 1994: Do Today's Heavyweights Stink? Boxing 94 Analyzes The Question … The Answer May Shock You! Also: Benn-Eubank II, trainers' secrets, Brad Jacobs, McKinney-Patterson preview.

May 1994: Roberto Duran At 100!! (Fights, Not Years). Also: Carbajal-Gonzalez II preview, Kelley-Vargas, Bruce Trampler, People's Choice Heavyweight Tournament.

July 1994: The Moorer-Holyfield War: Our Exclusive Analysis And Prediction. Also: Randall-Chavez I, Eric Holland, The Rematches, James Braddock.

Sept. 1994: Mike Tyson—336 More Days For #922335. Also: Leavander Johnson, lucky losers, Panama Lewis, Ad Wolgast, Cornelius Boza-Edwards, De La Hoya-Molina preview.

Nov. 1994: You Might Not Like This But … Lennox Lewis Is The Best Heavyweight In The World. Also: Gerald McClellan, Frankie Randall, Roy Jones, Gabe Ruelas-Leija preview.

Dec. 1994 (84-Page Special Edition): Boxing And Wrestling Have More In Common Than You Think! Also: The 1980s: Boxing's Greatest Decade, Verno Phillips, Sergei Kobozev, Mike McCallum, Tony Galento, Michael Buffer.

March 1995: An American Love Story: Why We're Crazy About Big George. Also: Danny Romero, 32 stars of tomorrow, Vincent Pettway, Johnny Tocco, Young Stribling, Holmes-McCall preview.

May 1995: '95 Alive! The 10 Fights We'd Like To See. Also: Roy Jones, Bob Lee, Bobby Crabtree, Owen Moran, Vasquez-Whitaker preview.

July 1995: Tyson-The Five Men He Should Fight … And The Five He Should Avoid. Also: Benn-McClellan, Holyfield-Mercer preview, Arnie Rosenthal.

Jan. 1996: Holyfield Answers The Tough Questions. Also: Wayne McCullough, puncher vs. puncher, Paul Vaden, pay-per-view.

March 1996: Amidst The Confusion … Bowe Stands Tall. Also: Whitaker vs. Greats, British tragedies, Tim Witherspoon, Frank Warren, Benn-Collins preview.

May 1996: Bruno's Better, Tyson's Worse …Will It Make A Difference? Also: Arturo Gatti, Gerry Cooney, Frans Botha, Hector Camacho.

July 1996: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Julio Cesar Chavez—Exclusive Analysis & Prediction. Also: Marco Antonio Barrera, Wayne McCullough, Johnny Tapia & Sugar Ray Leonard, Kevin Kelley.

Nov. 1996: Oscar's Hit List: Nobody's Too Tough For "The Golden Boy." Also: Michael Moorer, Gatti-Patterson II preview, Frankie Liles, Kevin Kelley, Henry Akinwande, Archie Moore.

Jan. 1997: Scared Stiff! Seldon Wimps Out Against Tyson. Can Holyfield Reverse The Ugly Trend? Also: Lou Savarese, David Reid, Luis Rodriguez, best body-punchers, Ali vs. the greats.

May 1997: Evander Holyfield—Five Questions That Must Be Answered. Also: Ray Mercer, Phillip Holiday, Tommy Brooks, Jimmy Braddock, Carmen Basilio.

July 1997: Holyfield-Tyson II: Boxing 97 Analyzes The Richest Fight In History. Also: Oliver McCall, Mark Johnson, Riddick Bowe, top trainers.

Nov. 1997: Holyfield vs. Tyson: Victim As Hero—A Story of Grace And Disgrace. Also: Marvin Hagler, *Boxing After Dark*, Camacho-De La Hoya preview.

Jan. 1998: Holyfield vs. The All-Time Greats. Also: Holmes-Foreman, Hector Lopez, Omar Sheika.

March 1998: Evander's Road To Unification: Tyson, Moorer Down—Lewis Is Next! Also: Joe Calzaghe, Oliver McCall, Lopez-Quartey.

May 1998: Five Greatest Stars And Their Greatest Threats. Also: 10 Best Fights of 1997 (color), Battling Siki.

July 1998: Boxing's 20 Most Frequently Asked Questions! Also: Danny Romero, Stevie Johnston, Fernando Vargas.

Sept. 1998: The Battle Of The Superstars! Why De La Hoya's Always A Step Ahead Of Jones. Also: Thomas Tate, Vargas-Reid preview, Keith Mullings, Carl Thompson, Frazier-Marciano fantasy, heavyweight prospects.

Nov. 1998: Kennedy McKinney vs. Naseem Hamed: Can The King Dethrone The Prince? Also: Gerry Penalosa, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Zulfia Koutdussova, Quartey-Trinidad preview.

Jan. 1999: Boxing Insiders Poll: Is Michael Grant The Next Great Heavyweight? Also: Mike Tyson, Robinson-Gatti I, Mosley-Phillips preview, Razor Ruddock, middleweights, Vitali & Wladimir Klitschko.

March 1999: The Secret Of Mike Tyson's Enduring Popularity. Also: Sharmba Mitchell, Holyfield-Lewis preview, John Brown, Roberto Garcia.

May 1999: What Boxing Fans Have To Look Forward To! Also: Arturo Gatti, Antonio Tarver, 1998 in review.

July 1999: After Coming Off The Floor To Beat Quartey … Now, Even Oscar's Convinced. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Jesse Ferguson, Lou Del Valle, one-punch knockouts.

Sept. 1999: The Numbers Don't Lie: A Statistical Analysis Of Boxing's Best. Also: Lennox Lewis, Tony Ayala, Hasim Rahman.

Nov. 1999: George Foreman vs. Mike Tyson: It's So Crazy, It Just Might Work! Also: Grant-Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Trinidad, John Ruiz, Max Kellerman.

Jan. 2000: The Best (And Worst) Of Everything. Also: Eric Morrel, Erik & Diego Morales, Stevie Johnston, Tszyu-Gonzalez.

March 2000: The 10 Fights That Must Be Made! Also: Mike Tyson, Lonnie Bradley, Naseem Hamed, Laila Ali.

May 2000: Bernard Hopkins: "Just Because I Can Fight Doesn't Mean I Can't Think." Also: Klitschko brothers, Randall Bailey, Erik Morales, Vargas-Quartey preview.

July 2000: The Junior Welterweight Division: The Class Of Boxing. Also: Morales, Barrera, Trinidad-Reid, Beau Jack.

Sept. 2000: Lennox Lewis Is Unstoppable! Also: Antonio Diaz, Will Taylor, Mayweather-Corrales preview, fantasy tournament.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING JANUARY 2001]

Jan. 2001: Looking For That Crossover Superstar: Can Sugar Shane Put A "Tiger" In Boxing's Tank? Also: Zab Judah, Lou Del Valle, Eric Morel, 1975 vs. 2000, Lewis-Tua preview.

May 2001: Is Lennox Lewis Unbeatable? These Six Heavyweights Say "No!" Also: Felix Trinidad, Hamed-Barrera preview, Lawrence Clay-Bey, John Ruiz, 2000 in review.

Sept. 2001: De La Hoya's Destiny: Five Guys He Should Fight … Five He Shouldn't. Also: Barrera-Hamed, John Ruiz, Ray Mercer, Bones Adams, Rahman-Lewis, Fres Oquendo.

Jan. 2002: Heayweight Dilemma: Who Deserves The Next Shot? Also: Ramham-Lewis II preview, Shane Mosley, Ayala-Adams, Micky Ward, heayweight championship rematches.

May 2002: Wladimir Klitschko: Is He The Next Great Heavyweight? Also: Oliver McCall, Manuel Medina, Paul Spadafora, Barrera-Morales II preview, 2001 in review.

Sept. 2002: Boxing By The Numbers: A Different Look At The Best Of The Best. Also: Zab Judah, Barrera-Morales, Antonio Margarito & Daniel Santos, Tokunbo Olajide, DeMarcus Corley.

Jan. 2003: Klitschko vs. Lewis: Why Wait? Let's Get It On Now! Also: Felix Trinidad, Barrera-Morales II, Zab Judah, Forrest-Mosley II.

April 2003: Roy Jones' Heavyweight Gamble: The Experts Size Up His Chances. Also: Mike Tyson, Oscar De La Hoya, Vivian Harris, Lawrence Clay-Bey, fighting friends.

Aug. 2003: Mike Tyson—The Reconstruction Of A Myth. Also: Juan Manuel Marquez, Brian Kenny, Abdullaev-Cotto, Vonda Word, 2003 Hall of Fame, welterweights, PPV.

Dec. 2003: A Cut Above: Lewis-Klitschko ReVITALIzes The Heavyweight Division. Also: Jones-Holyfield, Gatti-Ward triology, Dan Goosen, Tiger Martinez, Jeff Lacy, division-jumping.

March 2004: Get Over It, Oscar! Your Redemption Lies Within The Ring. Also: Evander Holyfield, Joel Casamayor, Joe Mesi, Juan Lazcano, Frank Bruno, Audley Harrison.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 Each

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) as payment in full.

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add one $1.50 for every back issue to be shipped by surface mail, and $3 for every back issue to be shipped airmail. Int'l money in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

BOXING 88/2004

☐ JAN/88	☐ NOV/89	☐ MAY/93	☐ MAY/97	☐ MAY/00
☐ FEB/88	☐ JAN/90	☐ JUL/93	☐ JUL/97	☐ JUL/00
☐ MAR/88	☐ SEP/90	☐ MAR/94	☐ NOV/97	☐ SEP/00
☐ APR/88	☐ NOV/90	☐ MAY/94	☐ JAN/98	☐ OCT/00
☐ MAY/88	☐ JAN/91	☐ JUL/94	☐ MAR/98	☐ JAN/01
☐ JUN/88	☐ MAR/91	☐ SEP/94	☐ MAY/98	☐ MAY/01
☐ JUL/88	☐ MAY/91	☐ NOV/94	☐ JUL/98	☐ SEP/01
☐ AUG/88	☐ JUL/91	☐ DEC/94	☐ SEP/98	☐ JAN/02
☐ SEP/88	☐ SEP/91	☐ MAR/95	☐ NOV/98	☐ MAY/02
☐ OCT/88	☐ NOV/91	☐ MAY/95	☐ JAN/99	☐ SEP/02
☐ NOV/88	☐ JAN/92	☐ JUL/95	☐ MAR/99	☐ JAN/03
☐ DEC/88	☐ MAY/92	☐ JAN/96	☐ MAY/99	☐ APR/03
☐ FEB/89	☐ JUL/92	☐ MAR/96	☐ JUL/99	☐ AUG/03
☐ MAR/89	☐ SEP/92	☐ MAY/96	☐ SEP/99	☐ DEC/03
☐ MAY/89	☐ NOV/92	☐ JUL/96	☐ NOV/99	☐ MAR/04
☐ JUL/89	☐ JAN/93	☐ NOV/96	☐ JAN/00	
☐ SEP/89	☐ MAR/93	☐ JAN/97	☐ MAR/00	

In case of sellout, please list alternate choice:_____

6618/2-04

THE FIGHT DOCTOR

AFTER THE FIGHT: POSTFIGHT MEDICAL EVALUATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

By Margaret Goodman, MD

Few reality television shows could outdo the medical drama played out in each and every boxing contest, often out of sight of the fans and TV cameras. An illustrative example took place on April 10, 2004, in Las Vegas, Nevada, when Wladimir Klitschko was stopped by Lamon Brewster at the end of the fifth round.

As the assigned ring physician, I found Klitschko lethargic and poorly communicative in the immediate aftermath of the bout. Within the next several minutes, his alertness improved, and he began answering questions. Soon thereafter, however, his exam changed and was of serious concern.

Wladimir's left pupil dilated (became larger than the right), indicating either brain swelling or bleeding, or injury to the eye itself. The ambulance crew was immediately notified, and his corner escorted him to the back of the arena where he was given oxygen. Wladimir was re-examined by three physicians and then transported to the nearest hospital with a neurosurgeon. His exam remained stable, his pupils once again became equal, and he had a normal brain CT (computerized tomography).

After blood and urine drug screens were taken, Wladimir left under the supervision of his brother, trainer, and private physician. Afterward, he received a suspension pending evaluation with an internist, neurologist, and repeat brain MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). Drug screens including over 125 substances were normal, and all followup was listed on the Federal Suspension List.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

A postfight examination of Wladimir Klitschko following his knockout loss to Lamon Brewster indicated that he should be taken to the hospital for additional tests. Prompt medical attention such as this can be lifesaving.

The ring physician's duties overseeing prefight and postfight medical clearance are every bit as important as protecting the fighters during a contest. Fighters spend little time in an actual fight compared to that spent sparring and training in the gym. Therefore, the few minutes a ring doctor spends with a fighter before he leaves the arena can be lifesaving.

Following each bout that has resulted in either a kayo or TKO, a commission physician will assess the fighter in the ring, and travel with the fighter to the dressing room to conduct a postfight examination. This includes the fighter's responses to a battery of questions determining the presence of a headache, nausea/vomiting, dizziness, memory loss/confusion, hearing loss/ringing in the ears, weakness or numbness on one side, trouble with balance/coordination, changes in vision, pain, possible fractures, or shortness of breath/chest pain.

The fighter will then receive a brief exam, and the complaints, recommended treatment, and suspension are documented. If the fighter is sent to the hospital

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

A mortally injured Stephan Johnson is taken to the hospital after collapsing during a bout in Atlantic City. A loophole in the medical suspension procedure allowed him to fight despite the fact that he'd suffered a previous subdural hematoma.

for a possible head injury, the physician and paramedic will remain with the fighter until they are transported.

For example, following his recent fight with Erik Morales, Carlos Hernandez completed his urine drug test, attended the postfight press conference, and was then transported to Valley Hospital for a precautionary brain CT before going back to his hotel that night.

Few fighters have their own health insurance. Even so, every fighter carries insurance provided by the promoter for injuries sustained during the course of a fight. Unfortunately, fighters frequently refuse to go to the hospital after a fight. This makes no sense. Allowing a cut to heal without the necessary treatment will make that area susceptible to re-injury or require longer suspensions following his next fight.

If a fighter has a broken hand or nose, sore shoulder, or a cut, treatment could cost hundreds if not thousands of dollars. It is, therefore, to the boxer's benefit to mention any problems to the ring doctor so that the cost of evaluation and treatment will be covered.

On occasion, a commission will write, "Brain CT/MRI before next fight." If the ring physician believes the fighter suffered sufficient injury to require a CT/MRI, the fighter must do it that night. Not only will the cost be covered by the promoter's insurance, if there is a serious problem, it should be diagnosed immediately. Waiting might allow the fighter to return to the gym, and lead to more headshots before a potentially life-threatening outcome is known.

In Nevada and many other states, a fighter is provided a list of potentially serious symptoms to look for after a fight, and where to seek assistance. Moreover, a fighter does not have to have suffered a kayo, TKO, or take too many headshots to have a concussion or dangerous head injury. It is equally important for the people around the fighter to understand the signs and symptoms of a concussion. In fact, these individuals are in a better position to recognize subtle changes that could indicate a serious brain injury.

The boxer should not be alone or drive after a fight. He should also not ingest aspirin or Motrin (which can predispose someone to bleeding), sleeping pills, tranquilizers, or other sedatives for at least 72 hours.

It is important to note that irrespective of these examples, the fighter in need of medical care is not always the loser. In many states a fighter will receive an "automatic suspension" following every fight. This is based on the number of rounds fought. The purpose is to give an athlete time off between bouts to rest.

In Nevada, for example, after fighting four rounds, a fighter cannot have another scheduled bout for four days. The suspension is extended depending on how many rounds were fought: If he/she fought five to six rounds, the fighter is required to take a mandatory seven days off; seven to eight rounds require 14 days off; nine to 10 rounds require 21 days off; and 11 to 12 rounds require 30 days off.

Other suspensions are routinely given depending on the outcome of a fight or the severity of the punishment sustained. For example, after a TKO, the fighter is given a minimum 30/21 suspension, meaning 30 days before a scheduled bout and 21 days without sparring. As a result of a tougher bout or kayo loss, a fighter could receive a suspension of 60/45 (60 days before another scheduled bout, 45 days before sparring). Fernando Vargas underwent a precautionary head CT immediately after his fight with Oscar De La Hoya, and a 90/60-day medical suspension.

Suspensions for cuts will depend on the location and depth. Some may need as short as 30 days to heal. Others required longer periods. After his first fight with Joel Casamayor, Diego Corrales received a 120-day suspension for facial and oral cuts.

At one time, if a fighter was placed on the Federal Suspension List, he could be taken off suspension by another commission. This can lead to tragedy, such as in the case of Stephan Johnson, who was knocked out in the 12th round by Fitz Vanderpool on April 14, 1999, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Johnson was taken from the ring on a stretcher, evaluated at a local hospital, and eventually sent home, but placed on suspension pending further evaluation (including a brain CT).

Somehow, Johnson was inappropriately taken off suspension and fought in South Carolina, Georgia, and finally New Jersey, where he collapsed in a bout with Paul Vaden on November 20, 1999, and later died from a subdural hematoma (bleeding on the surface of the brain). Unfortunately, his brain scan performed a few months earlier also showed a subdural that was overlooked.

Now, federal law requires all commissions to honor another state's medical suspension. Furthermore, the only jurisdiction that can remove a fighter from the Federal Suspension List is the commission who placed the fighter on the list.

Every fighter needs to understand his/her suspension, and abide by the restrictions. Suspensions are not given to punish the fighter, nor are they done to hold back the fighter's career. The ring physician and commission want the fighter to rest, and time is needed to accomplish that goal. Suspensions must be submitted by the commission to FightFax, the appointed National Registry by the Association of Boxing Commissions, within 48 hours of a contest. A fighter can always ask a commission for guidance and advice in pursuing care regarding medical symptoms or treatment after a bout. ■

Dr. Goodman will be happy to answer questions about the medical aspects of boxing in future columns. Please send inquiries to: The Fight Doctor, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

COME OUT WRITING

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

DANNY DOUBTER

I wonder about Danny Williams hoping that he can challenge Vitali Klitschko. True enough, Williams beat Mike Tyson, but Tyson wasn't in his prime. If Williams had beaten him in the 1980s, then I would say he's up for a title bout. But Williams is not an elite heavyweight, and I think his management is setting him up for a good, old-fashioned whipping if he fights Vitali.

KELVIN RUSSELL
righthook@aol.com

POLICY CLARIFICATION

Like many others, I respect, applaud, and advocate THE RING's championship policy. When someone asks me who the champ is in a division, I don't list the alphabet strapholders, I just say Manny Pacquiao or Vitali Klitschko, etc. But I'm a little confused about the history of THE RING's championship policy. It came into effect in 2002, but every once in a while I see an older photo of a boxer wearing a RING belt. Did THE RING have champions before you actually solidified your policy? A little background would be great.

DAVID NEIMAN
Toronto, Ontario

[Editor's note: THE RING began awarding championship belts soon after the publication debuted in 1922, with the first going to heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey. Those are the belts you see old-time champions wearing in photographs. Due to several changes in ownership and varying editorial philosophies that resulted from those changes, the policy of awarding championship belts fell into disuse during most of the 1990s. But prompted by the ongoing confusion caused by split titles and motivated by a desire to return credibility to championship boxing, THE RING announced its new championship policy in the April 2002 issue, and again began to award belts to fighters THE RING considered genuine world champions.

PHOTO BY PAT ORR

Junior middleweight champion Winky Wright poses with his RING championship belt moments after receiving it at the International Boxing Hall of Fame's 2004 induction weekend. Reader David Neiman writes to inquire about THE RING belts he's seen old-time fighters wearing and our current championship policy.

TONEY NOT WORTHY

What's up with THE RING and James Toney? He gets in shape and beats Vassiliy Jirov, a tough kid in a lousy division. Then, because Toney beats an over-the-hill Evander Holyfield, you guys have him rated pound-for-pound and are profiling him like the he's the savior of boxing. Toney is a smooth boxer, but he has no discipline and is not a knockout monster. He should not be rated, pound-for-pound, over guys who stay in shape and fight every few months. The buildup Toney has been getting lately is bigger that his waistline. I know the heavies are short of big mouths right now, but Toney makes the division look weak.

BOB ELLIS
Quincy, MA

[Editor's note: Toney is not currently ranked in THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings.]

MANNY'S TURN WILL COME

I'm writing in response to Erwin Ponce's letter in THE RING DOUBLE, Volume I, 2004, complaining that Manny Pacquiao hasn't landed a cover yet. If you think about it, Manny hasn't been on the pound-for-pound list as long as someone such as Bernard

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

Arturo Gatti and manager Pat Lynch celebrate as referee Randy Neumann counts out Leonard Dorin in the second round. Like many fans, reader James Bauler thinks that Gatti's quick demolition of previously unbeaten Dorin makes a possible Gatti-Floyd Mayweather match all the more interesting.

Hopkins or Kostya Tszyu. And don't forget that Pacquiao was co-featured on the April '04 issue of THE RING, along with Roy Jones and Antonio Tarver. That's progress considering that other P-4-P entrant, Juan Manuel Marquez, hasn't been featured on the cover. Give him time, I have faith in Manny.

KRISTIAN REYES
Reyes_usn@hotmail.com

INTEREST MOUNTS

I watched Arturo Gatti vs. Leonard Dorin on HBO and was surprised by the outcome. I was sure Gatti would win an entertaining decision or late-round stoppage, but not only did Gatti knock out Dorin in the second round, he did it with a left hook to the body. The pain on Dorin's face spoke for itself. I'm not saying Gatti could beat Floyd Mayweather, but I would be interested in the fight.

JAMES BAULER
discofreshness@wmconnect.com

TALKATIVE TEDDY

Can somebody tell Teddy Atlas not to talk so much during the fights, as I can't concentrate? He needs a muzzle.

DANIEL O'CONNELL
Fitchburg, MA

ONE PUNCH TOO MANY

With the exception of Ali-Liston II, THE RING gets high marks for the one-punch kayo article ("One Punch & It's Over: A Half-Century Of Memorable Knockouts") in the October 2004 issue. The others were great fights with dramatic endings. There was, however, one that you overlooked: when Floyd Patterson regained the heavyweight title from Ingemar Johansson with a single right hand in the fifth round. You also have to remember the historical impact as Patterson became the first to regain the heavyweight title. This fight rates well ahead of Ali-Liston II, McCallum-Curry, and Jones-Hill.

ED SENECA JR.
Harrisburg, PA

[Editor's note: As Johansson was down twice in the fifth round of his second match with Patterson, it doesn't qualify as a "one-punch" knockout. Incidentally, Patterson used the left hook, not the right hand, to score both knockdowns.]

PLEASANT MEMORIES

What a great idea to feature past covers (THE RING DOUBLE, Volume I, 2004). The first copy I ever had was in 1937, which had middleweight claimant Freddie Steele on the cover. It must have been passed on to me by my older brother, as I was only six years old that year. In about 1943, a ring was erected on the lawn in front of Town Hall here, and I was astonished to watch a three-round exhibition by Joe Louis and Billy Conn. Something to remember, I'm sure you'll agree. It was, therefore, good to see the cover from the July 1942 issue with Louis and Conn in uniform. Give us more covers.

BERNARD CAIN
Warrington, England

C.R. Schaare's illustration of middleweight Freddie Steele graced the cover of the January 1937 issue of THE RING, which just so happens to be the first issue reader Bernard Cain owned. Mr. Cain writes that the recent article featuring vintage covers brought back many memories.

DOUBLE STANDARD

There is a politician who has perched himself on a pedestal of self-righteousness donned in a cloak of morality. This politician lives in a fragile glass house and seems obsessed with throwing bricks at Mike Tyson. I'm referring to New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, the man who overruled New Jersey boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard's decision to reinstate Tyson's license to box. McGreevey's excuse was that he "doesn't think that Mr. Tyson has the temperament to engage in sportsmanship." It's an erroneous assumption. Unfortunately, the reputation has outlived the deeds. In recent years, in his wins as well as his losses, Tyson has been humble, gracious, and displayed nothing but sportsmanship. Currently, the same self-righteous McGreevey is mired in his own mass of scandals, and it's his ethics that need to be scrutinized. Mike Tyson deserves a chance to attempt to resurrect his floundering career in New Jersey; the hypocritical McGreevey does not.

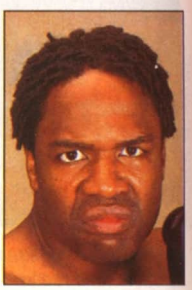
JAMES B. MOORE
Reading, PA ■

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

BYRD'S ALL BUSINESS

If heavyweight beltholder **Chris Byrd** had his way, he wouldn't be fighting **Jameel McCline** on November 13 as part of **Don King'** latest pay-per-view extravaganza. That's because Byrd's one of boxing's nicest guys, and nice guys don't like hitting their good friends in the face.



Byrd: Fighting his friend

"We're really good friends, and our wives are *really* good friends. When they come to Vegas, they stay at our house," Byrd said. "But he's a mandatory, and I have to fight him or I'll be stripped of my title. So it's a business decision, really. This is strictly business."

Byrd actually got down to business with McCline once before. Two weeks before Byrd's last bout, an April draw with **Andrew Golota**, Byrd and McCline sparred at New York's Kingsway Gym, delighting a large gathering of onlookers by slugging it out with each other. When he's wearing headgear and heavier gloves, Byrd tends to fight more aggressively than in most of his official bouts—although the action in his sparring session with McCline carried over into the Golota match, which was arguably the most entertaining fight that the slippery southpaw has ever had.

So will the McCline fight be another crowd-pleaser, or the kind of cautious chess match with which Byrd is more typically identified?

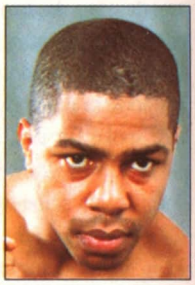
"I really don't know," Byrd admitted. "I used to be a boxer, but I'm getting a little cockier now that I'm older. After the Golota fight, my wife was killing me. She was like, 'What are you doing?' But it's fun to me. When I used to win these 10- or 12-round shutouts, I was bored to death. I know it's smarter for me to fight that way, but it isn't fun."

Whether he has fun or not against McCline, the most important thing for Byrd is to win, so that he can stay in the running for one of the two potential fights that he says would get him "geeked up": a rematch with **Vitali Klitschko** for the world title, or a classic boxing match with **James Toney**. The fact that Byrd is promoted by King, while Klitschko and Toney aren't, could cause an impasse, but Byrd remains optimistic.

"If we all keep winning, if the money's there," Byrd said, "then everyone will find a way to make it happen."

BUT FIRST ...

It sounds like Byrd will have a lot of scouting to do in December. Champion Klitschko will fight on December 11, and as of press time, there were two potential challengers being discussed: **Danny Williams** and **Monte Barrett**. If it's Williams (and odds are it will be), then the fight will be on HBO Pay-Per-View. If it's Barrett, it might be a PPV, it might not.



Barrett: Somebody's December opponent

Either way, the following Saturday night, December 18, HBO will feature Toney (assuming he's won his September comeback fight by the time you read this), with possible foes including Barrett and **Vassiliy Jirov**. One way or the other, Barrett stands to take home a nice payday before the holidays. But the bigger story is that it sure looks like we're building toward an eventual Klitschko-Toney showdown.

That's probably not what Byrd was hoping to hear. But if he keeps winning, it'll be hard to deny him a shot at the winner.

LISTEN UP

At one time, HBO was considering using one of those December dates for an **Arturo Gatti** fight, but Gatti had surgery in August to remove cartilage from his nose, and won't be ready to fight again until early-2005 ... The November 27 **Erik Morales-Marco Antonio Barrera** III pay-per-view undercard was coming into focus as our press deadline neared. World lightweight champion **Jose Luis Castillo**, top junior feather **Oscar Larios**, and undefeated 105-pounder **Ivan Calderon** are all likely to see action on the show, and you can expect some of the opponents to be alphabet mandatory challengers ... **Acelino Freitas** is planning to begin his comeback in December in his native Brazil. After that, word is that "Popo" wants to invoke his rematch clause with conqueror **Diego Corrales**, but Team Freitas has been known to talk a tough game in the past. We'll believe Freitas really wants the rematch when the contracts are signed. ■

MAGAZINE WITHIN A MAGAZINE

The RING

30 Years Later

THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

The RING

CONTENTS

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

86 EDITOR'S NOTE
By Nigel Collins

88 FOREMAN OKAYED ZAIRE FIGHT IN 'FRISCO PARKING LOT AT MIDNIGHT
By Don King

92 MUHAMMAD ALI REVEALS: "WHY I'LL BEAT GEORGE FOREMAN!"

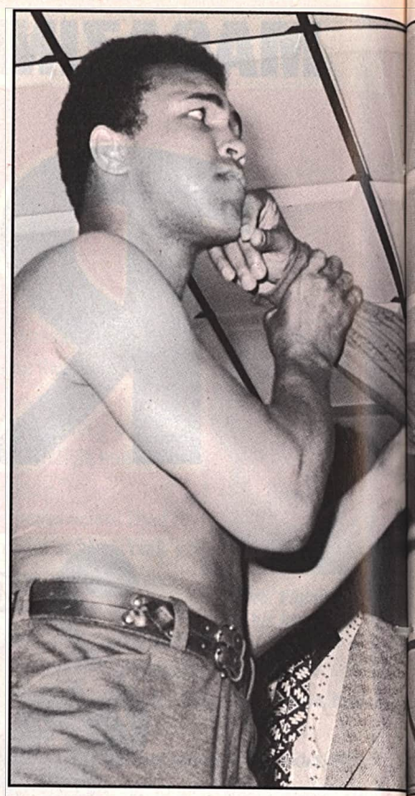
96 GEORGE FOREMAN INSISTS: "I'LL KNOCK ALI OUT EARLY"
By Dan Shocket

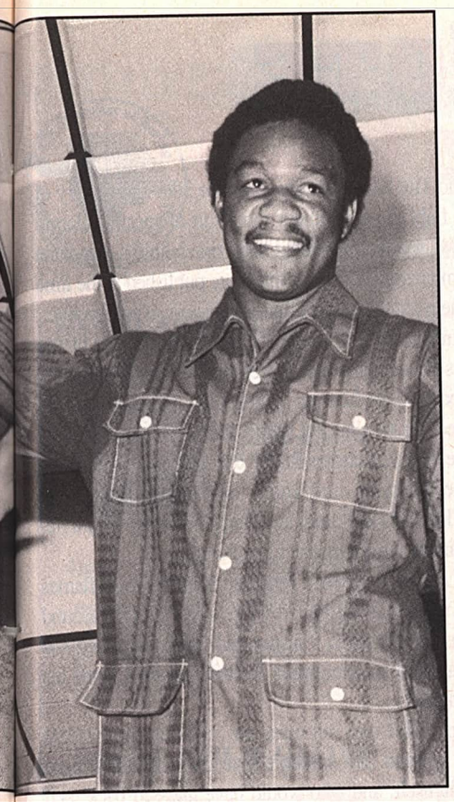
100 ALI-FOREMAN: THE $10-MILLION GAMBLE

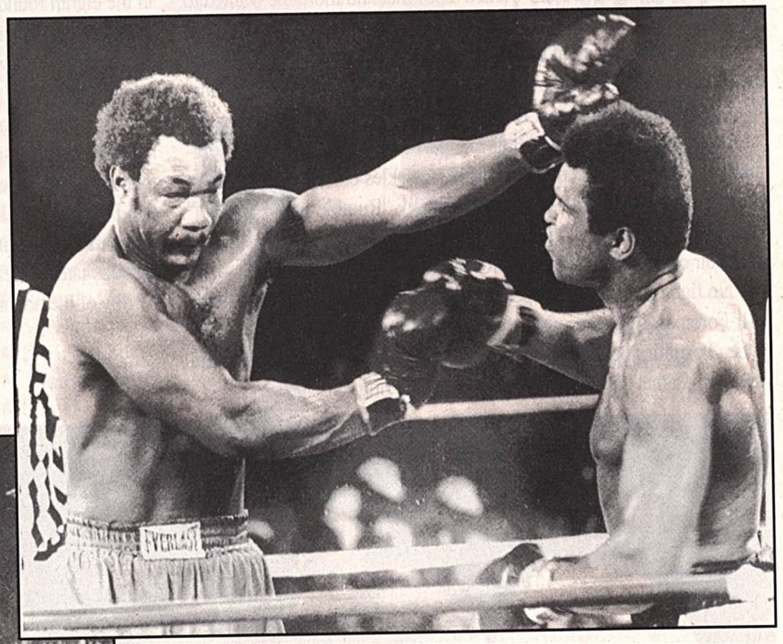
104 FORECAST FLASHBACK!

106 ALI OUTFOUGHT, OUTLASTED, AND OUTWITTED FOREMAN IN A CLASSIC UPSET
By Nat Loubet

111 FOREMAN'S KO BY ALI LEAVES HEAVIES WITHOUT TITANIC PUNCHING HERO
By Dan Daniels







Cover Design:
Monica Fisher

114 ALI'S ROPE TRICK NOTHING NEW
By Lester Bromberg

118 WILL ALI FIGHT AGAIN?
By Dan Shocket

120 THINKING BACK ... BIG GEORGE FOREMAN WAS BETTER OFF LOSING
By Nigel Collins

126 THE LASTING IMPACT OF ALI-FOREMAN
By Gavin Evans

Editor's Note

Certain fights take on mythical proportions with the passage of time, while others are destined for legendary status the moment the contract is signed. The Muhammad Ali-George Foreman heavyweight title fight in Kinshasa, Zaire, on October 30, 1974, is a rare example of the latter, a boxing match that transcended the world of sports before the first punch was thrown.

You certainly couldn't have asked for more captivating ingredients. First and foremost were the two contestants: Foreman was a menacing, undefeated champion who was considered virtually unbeatable. Ali was a beloved underdog whose popularity was greatly enhanced by his righteous stance on many of the era's social ills. Together, they represented an intriguing dichotomy. All Foreman seemed interested in was clubbing his opponent senseless, cashing his check, and going home. Ali wanted all of that and more; he wanted to save the world.

The fact that the bout took place in such an exotic locale added an extra layer of interest. Never before (or since) had such an important fight been staged in Africa. But beyond that was the symbolic significance of two black men fighting for sport's richest prize in an emerging nation that had recently cast off the shackles of white colonialism. And if all of that wasn't enough, the catchy "Rumble In The Jungle" appellation conjured up the sort of primal instincts that had fans marking their calendars and reaching for their wallets.

No fight starts with the opening bell, and the story leading up to the Ali-Foreman fight was almost as fascinating as the fight itself. But when hostilities began, what unfolded was as unexpected and eventful as anything that has ever occurred in a boxing ring.

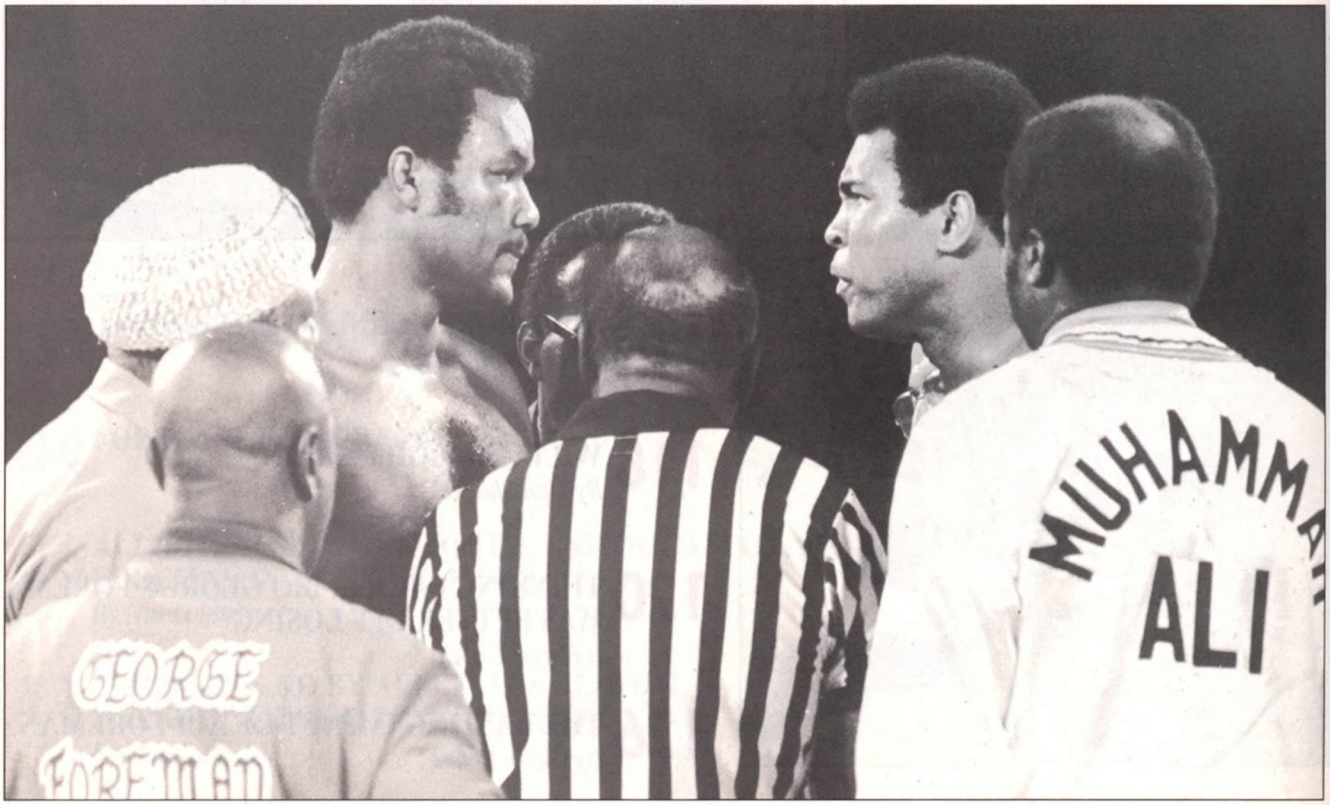
How, then, could THE RING possibly allow the 30th anniversary of such a momentous fight to pass without some sort of special celebration? To that end, we decided to create a magazine within a magazine and fill it with a combination of articles that were published at the time and new pieces to help put the whole affair into historical perspective.

In 1974, I was relatively new on the boxing beat, but one of my perks as THE RING's Philadelphia-area correspondent was a seat in the Spectrum press box for closed-circuit fights. Like many of those in attendance, I wanted Ali to win, but didn't think he would. A few years earlier, I'd seen Foreman ice Roger Russell in less than one round in the same building, and since then watched him run roughshod over the likes of Joe Frazier and Ken Norton. No way a 32-year-old Ali was going to tame a monster like Foreman.

I was wrong, of course, and when Foreman went down in flames in the eighth round, my spirits soared like those of all Ali fans around the world. At the time, it seemed as if justice had finally prevailed and the rightful king was back on the throne for the first time since his unjust banishment in 1967.

Of course, things didn't turn out quite the way that magnificent moment seemed to portend. Ali couldn't save the world any more than he could save himself, and who would have guessed back then that Foreman would reinvent himself and regain the heavyweight title 20 years later? But the fact that the fight resonates so strongly three decades later indicates how truly epic an event it was, a fight indeed worthy of the honor we pay it with this 48-page tribute.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief



International Boxing Hall of Fame
Limited Autograph Souvenirs

Boxing Greats Helping Support the Museum

Certificate of Authenticity accompanies each item

EVERLAST SPEED BAG

$195

Autographed by 25 "Greats"

Arguello ★ Barkley ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

GIANT GOLD GLOVE

$225

Autographed by 25 "Greats"

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Tarver ★ Torres ★ Ward

AZUMAH NELSON

Hall of Fame Champion on Everlast glove

Class of 2004

$85

★ Limited Quantity ★

NELSON & FENECH

Both champions on Everlast glove

$105

NELSON FENECH

★ Limited Quantity ★

AUTOGRAPH GLOVES

$85

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

★ Earnie Shavers
★ Carmen Basilio
★ Leon Spinks
★ Michael Spinks
★ Aaron Pryor
★ Christy Martin
★ Willie Pep
★ Ken Norton
★ Virgil Hill
★ Kid Gavilan
★ Ken Buchanan
★ Alexis Arguello
★ Buddy McGirt
★ Pipino Cuevas
★ Nino Benvenuti
★ "Irish" Micky Ward
★ Carlos Palomino
★ Ricardo "Finito" Lopez
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ Dwight Qawi
★ Tommy Morrison
★ Angelo Dundee
★ Johnny Tapia
★ Andrew Golota
★ Livingstone Bramble
★ James "Buster" Douglas
★ Danny "Little Red" Lopez

PALOMINO

WARD

MORRISON

TAPIA

COMBINATION GLOVE

(two autographs on Everlast glove)

$105

★ Basilio - Gavilan
★ Basilio - Saxton
★ Basilio - Fullmer
★ Arguello - Pryor
★ Basilio - DeMarco
★ Benvenuti - Griffith

★ Mexican Boxing Greats ★
Olivares, Cuevas, Napoles & Ricardo "Finito" Lopez on Everlast glove

TODAY'S STARS

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

$85

★ Winky Wright
★ Cory Spinks
★ Acelino "Popo" Freitas
★ Antonio "Magic Man" Tarver

CHAMPIONSHIP GLOVE

All 21 autographs on Everlast glove

$195

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Cuevas ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

EVERLAST CORNER POST

$275

Autographed by 25 greats:

Arguello ★ Barkley ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Tarver ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

BOXING ROBE

25 autographs on Everlast robe

$275

Arguello ★ Barkley ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Torres ★ Ward

HEAVYWEIGHT GLOVE

6 heavyweight autographs on Everlast glove

★ James "Buster" Douglas
★ Ken Norton
★ Leon Spinks
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ George Chuvalo
★ Earnie Shavers

$150

Phone Orders: (315) 697-7095
Fax (315) 697-5356

Make checks payable to:
BOXING HALL OF FAME
1 Hall of Fame Drive
Canastota, NY 13032

Please add 8.25% Sales Tax and $8.00 per item for shipping in U.S.
Call for International shipping rates

30 Years Later

THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

FOREMAN OKAYED ZAIRE FIGHT IN 'FRISCO PARKING LOT AT MIDNIGHT

(*The Ring*, October 1974)

By Don King

How did I put the fight between George Foreman, world heavyweight champion, and Muhammad Ali, former titleholder, together? Well, actually, there was nothing to it. Nothing more than sleepless nights, worry, things accomplished one day only to be destroyed the next, promises received on a Monday only to be demolished on a Tuesday.

Yes, a very simple job getting Foreman and Ali together in spite of the fact that each fighter was offered the enticing sum of $5-million for an adventure that could last only minutes.

Five million for Foreman to go to the black nation of Zaire in the Congo to defend his championship against Ali; five million for Ali to attempt to recover a world title once given up; five million to help create a strange, never before attempted picture in the Congo jungle where there never had been a fistic event of any sort, let alone a battle for the championship of the world.

King and heavyweight champ Foreman take in the fights at the Spectrum in Philadelphia. According to King, he had to chase Big George all over the world trying to get him to agree to fight Ali for a $5-million purse, which in 1974 was an all-time record.

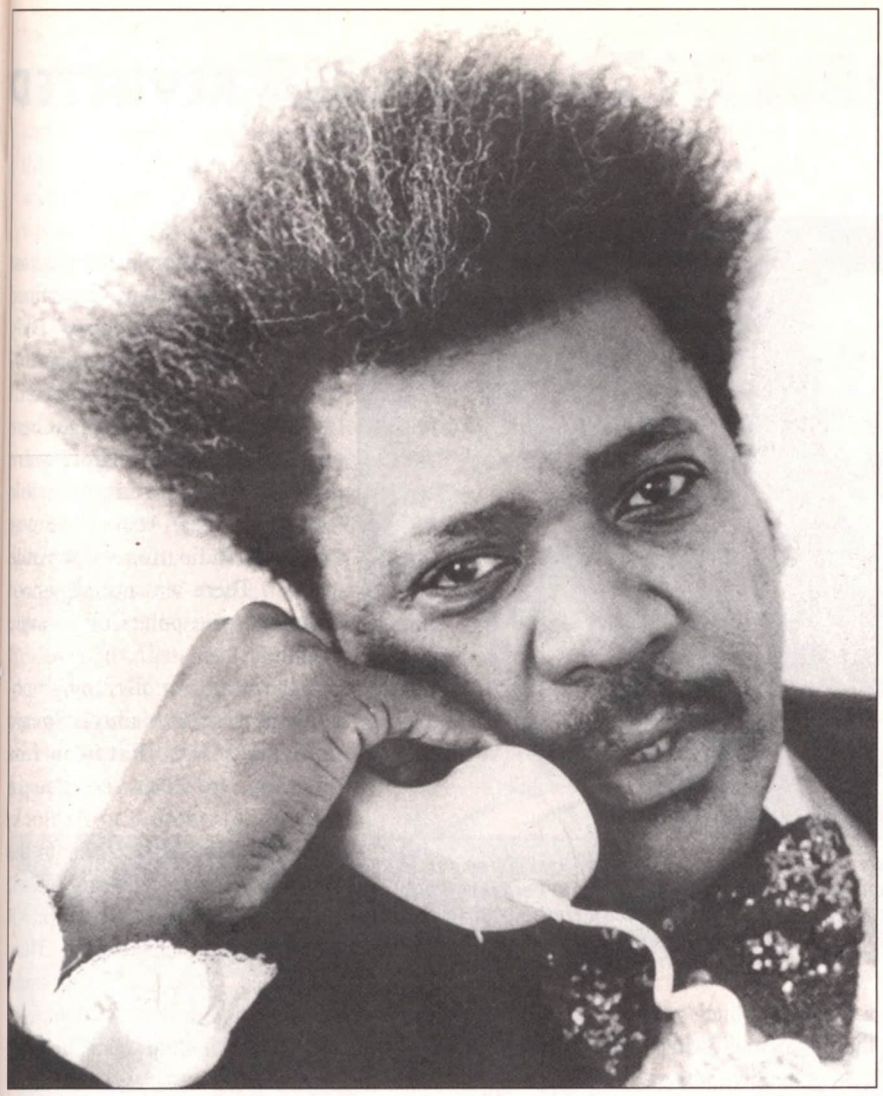
How did I get Foreman to defend and Ali to challenge in this strange setting?

How did this country boy from Ohio manage to gather sponsors for a total of $11-million? How was Don King able to collect a group of men with $11-million, to risk a vast sum of money in an unknown black nation from which European exploitation, notably by the Belgians, had been driven?

That the venture will be a tremendous success from every angle is a certainty. That the financial sheet will display millions in profits is an equal certainty. That the total take, reported to have been $20-million, for the first Frazier-Ali fight will be exceeded by millions is another sure thing.

As I tell the strange story it may have a tone of braggadocio. Well, if it does, okay. It was a terrific job, it still is, and the sequel may be just as great as the story leading up to the opening bell in the soccer stadium at Kinshasa.

The basis for the expected tremendous financial success is, of course, theater television. There will be viewers all over the world. We are negotiating for the TV rights



King burned up the phone lines trying to find financial backing for what would become known as "The Rumble In The Jungle." The promoter was nowhere near as well-known as he is today, and finding the money took a tremendous tenacity on his part.

with buyers even in China and we have dared to conduct negotiations in Russia, as well. In Zaire the fight will start on September 25 at three in the morning. That will be 10 o'clock at night on September 24 in New York.

Now, then, how did I get the fighters together? How did I get the money together? How did I achieve the impossible?

I flew all over the world hunting for backing, from New York to London, Zurich, and Kuwait, and everywhere I was turned down. They looked at me as if I were mad. This big man with the Afro haircut was daffy, those looks told me. But I was after an idea, and Don King never has been a quitter.

The fight was agreed upon first by Muhammad Ali and much later by George Foreman.

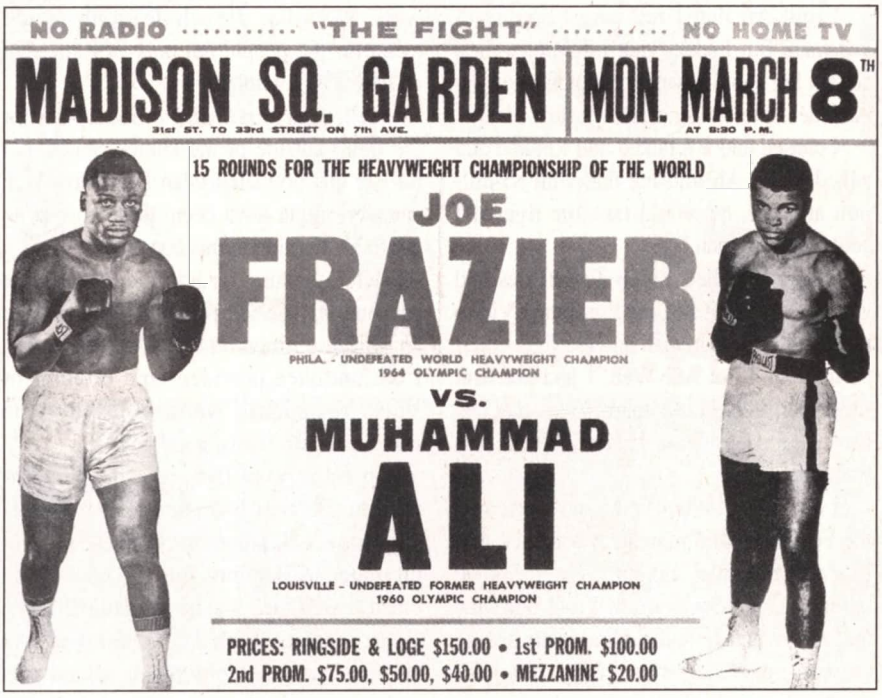
I chased Foreman all over the map. If I arrived in London, he just had gone. If I got back to New York, he had flown out an hour earlier to California. Back and forth I chased after my quarry. The fight finally was made with Foreman's handshake in San Francisco at midnight in a parking lot. Believe that.

Having cornered George, I let go at him with all the guns at my command. I told him that this fight was to be the biggest congress of black people in the history of the world. From Africa thousands and thousands of our people had been stolen to be thrown into slavery. In the heart of Africa we were to celebrate our freedom. In Africa the heavyweight champion of the world was to defend his title against another black man.

There would be no squabble over taxes as there had been in Caracas after the Foreman-Norton fight.

The story of the Foreman-Ali match leads us into Madison Square Garden on the night of December 14, 1973. Earnie Shavers, whom I was managing, was in the ring with Jerry Quarry. The bell rang and the fight was soon over. Shavers stopped by Jerry Quarry in one round.

I had high hopes for Shavers. Now I fell into the depths of despair. I had no fighter. I had no aims in the financial direction. Then



King's audacious plan to put Ali and Foreman together was inspired in part by the huge success of Ali's first fight with Joe Frazier, which reportedly grossed $20-million.

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

Muhammad Ali called me and said that I was foolish to be despondent.

"Louis was beaten by Schmeling and later became the world champion," Ali reminded me. "I lost the first fight with Norton. The book is full of cases of reversed decisions. Send Shavers to me and we will see what we can do to straighten him out."

I said to Ali that I wanted him to fight for me. We kicked that around for a while, and I guess I made an impression on Muhammad. He had to talk it over with Herbert Muhammad and Herbie had to see Elijah.

As the days passed, the idea got bigger and bigger. There was a strong call for the fight. It could make a lot of money.

Foreman chats with British boxing promoter Jack Solomons on his arrival in London in 1973 on the first leg of a European tour. The following year, Solomons, after some consideration, turned down an opportunity to be part of the Foreman-Ali fight in Zaire.

I got Ali interested in a big way. He said, "How about the money?"

I replied, "How about $5-million for you and $5-million for George Foreman?"

I told Ali that I felt sure I could get Foreman. But I added that I did not want a certain big shot lawyer in the picture on the Ali side. Note, he is not in the affair.

I chased and Ali talked and I talked and talked. Then Ali told me that with $5-million at stake, he would take the fight if I could get Foreman.

An outfit called Video Techniques had got the jump on me on Foreman. Video said that it had Foreman and the fight could be made if I got Ali. Well, I had Ali. But suddenly the fight fell apart. Video had lost Foreman, who had flown off to San Francisco.

I then flew to San Francisco to recover the Foreman commitment. It was then that I located Foreman and put my well-known talking machinery to work. I told Foreman that never before had a black man had so tremendous a chance to do big things for the black people. I played up the bigness of the entire enterprise. I did not give him a Hate the Whites sermon, but I did go all the way in impressing on George the greatness of the fight, the greatness of its impact on the black people and the whites, as well, and what the whole thing would mean for the people not only of Zaire, but of Africa as a whole.

Well, what next? I had to find a place for the fight, outside of the United States. Let me say that no matter what Foreman's U.S. situation might have been, there now is no bar to his fighting in this country.

Before hunting for a locale for the fight and hunting for $11-million, I had to have an official position on the promoting board. I became vice president and director of Video Techniques, working directly with Hank Schwartz, a real good guy.

To Hank went the job of finding $5-million. He first had some sort of assurance from Jack Solomons, the veteran fight promoter in London. But the size of the bread scared Jack and he begged off. Then Hank went to John Daly, chief of the Hemdale Leisure Corporation, which puts on big musical events.

When Daly got the full significance of the event and appreciated the vast financial opportunities, he jumped right into the thick of things. Daly put up a million-and-a-half dollars. I had to get all of the details together. There were changes here and changes there. There were points to be discussed as possible trouble sources. At no time was there any indication of possible distrust. There was no talk about safeguards, no points of possible insult.

I then began to offer my proposition. I went to Madison Square Garden, to Mrs. Eaton in Los Angeles, to Harry Levene in London, to Astaire, to Ashlock, and to Murchison in Texas, to the Houston Astrodome, to Jack Kent Cooke, and to Jerry Perenchio. All of the big shots moved away. They exclaimed "Who, me?" But some of them were plotting to steal the fight.

While the financial setup was jelling, we were hunting for the best place to hold the fight. We had come to the conclusion that it

King finally found some backing from John Daly of the Hemdale Leisure Corporation, an outfit that had formerly put on music events.

had to be a grand black man's carnival.

One day we discovered a German, who was acting as adviser to the nation of Zaire and to Joseph Mobutu, its president. I told the German that I had a proposition that would make Zaire known all over the world. He listened and listened some more, and gradually the idea took shape. He advised Zaire to listen to me, and before long a deal had been set up. Zaire in the Congo it was. Onetime Leopoldville it was.

Of course, the proposition was not grabbed without full explanation of all details, and we persuaded Zaire of the honesty and the tremendous opportunity presented in the African nation. We had a meeting in Paris. The German adviser brought in some wealthy European businessmen. The more Zaire got the details, the more did the fight there take hold.

To get the two groups, black and white, together presented some problems, but there were not difficulties. We solved existing questions, we guarded against others that we were sure would come up. The fight was on.

Then, some of the people in the United States who had turned us down came looking for some of the action. It was too late.

We visited Zaire. I was in the group along with Herbert Muhammad, Dick Sadler, a few lawyers, John Daly, and Barry Burnstein. We found Zaire crazy about the fight and we found conditions to our liking.

We provided for housing for the hundreds of reporters who were sure to cover the fight. The government had taken over a hotel of modern size and accommodations for a press headquarters and living accommodations. For the three nights preceding the fight, I have organized a musical extravaganza involving all of the star performers of the United States. Not a few, but all of them. Aretha Franklin, Jim Brown, B.B. King, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder—oh, just about all of them. My plan looked mainly to spiritual impact, to the celebration of the freedom of the black man and his return to his homeland.

Video Techniques has arranged for 410 locations that will provide three million seats, exclusive of Canada, Mexico, and Central and South America. This greatest fight in fistic history will draw big in Great Britain, in Ireland, in Scotland. In fact, it will bring out the world. Video Techniques had 5,000 groups in association with Swissair. The tab for the nine-day tour will come to $2,164. The tourist will have two days in Zurich, and five days in Kinshasa. He will get a $250 ticket for the fight.

Muhammad Ali will start training in Kinshasa two weeks before the fight.

Do I have any opinion about the winner? I should be neutral in thought and action. But I believe that Ali will win and become the second two-time heavyweight champion, duplicating Floyd Patterson's feat against Johansson.

I have been told that from a certain area in Madison Square Garden there have been reports that this fight in the Congo never would come off.

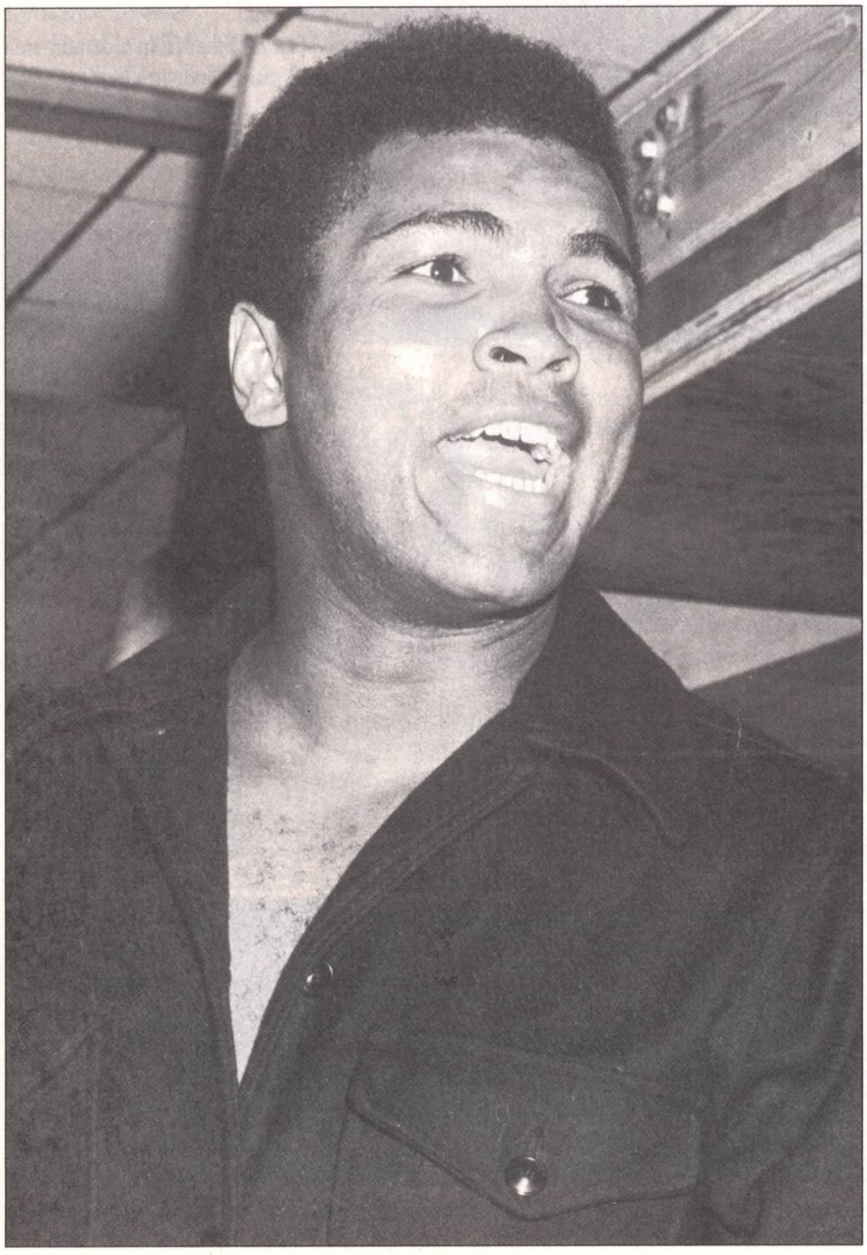
Wanna bet? ■

Although a lot of people thought it couldn't be done, all of King's work finally paid off when the government of Zaire agreed to host the event. That's Zaire's president, Joseph Mobutu, raising the fighters' arms on the billboard photo.

30 Years Later

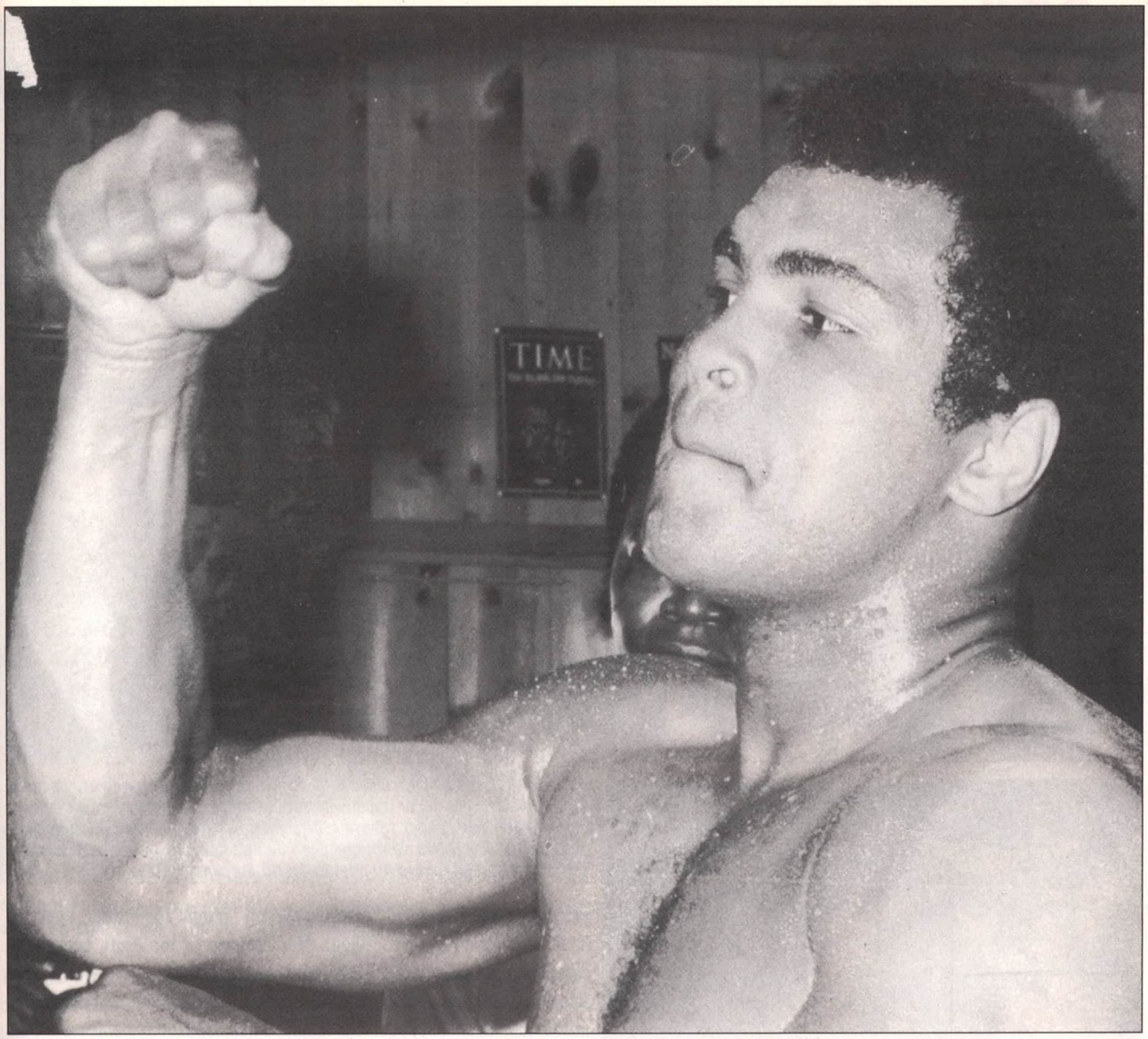
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

Muhammad Ali Reveals: "WHY I'LL BEAT GEORGE FOREMAN!"



(*International Boxing*, October 1974)

This is the legend of Muhammad Ali,
The most popular fighter that ever will be,
He talks a great deal and brags indeed,
Of a powerful punch and blinding speed,
The fistic world is dull and dreary,
With a champ like Foreman, things got to be bleary,
Now someone with color, someone with dash,
Brings the fight fans running with cash,
This brash boxer is something to see,
The heavyweight championship is his destiny,
Ali fights great, he has speed and endurance,
If you sign to fight him, increase your insurance,
Ali's got a left, Ali's got a right,
When he hits George once, he'll be asleep for the night,
And as George lies on the floor, as the ref counts "10,"
He'd better hope and pray he don't meet me again,
For I am the man this poem's about,
The true champion of the world, there isn't a doubt,
Do you remember when I predicted the score?
I told you I'd be champion of the world in '64.
When I say three, they go in the third,
Don't bet against me, I'm a man of my word,
Do you remember when I predicted Sonny Liston's dismemberment?



Ali was already hard at work at his Deer Lake, Pennsylvania, training camp when he voiced the opinions contained in this prefight article. Ali claimed that he would train harder for Foreman than he'd trained for any of his previous opponents.

Hit him so hard he forgot where October and November went.
I wind it up like this—
If I tell you a mosquito can pull a plow,
Don't ask how, hitch him up!
—Muhammad Ali

The above poem should be reserved for posterity if only because it may be one of the last we will ever get from Muhammad Ali.

Most experts predict George Foreman will punch him as senseless as the heavyweight champion has battered Joe Frazier, Joe "King" Roman, and Ken Norton. Of course, these same experts also knew Sonny Liston would make short work of a brash young impostor named Cassius Clay.

Ali is determined to recapture the heavyweight title when he fights Foreman this September in Zaire. This will be Ali's second, and probably last, chance to again win the heavyweight crown.

"Why do I *know* I can beat him?" Ali rhetorically asks, and then answers.

"Number one: The power of Allah. He controls earthquakes, tornadoes, droughts, everything. And I believe I'm in good standing with Him.

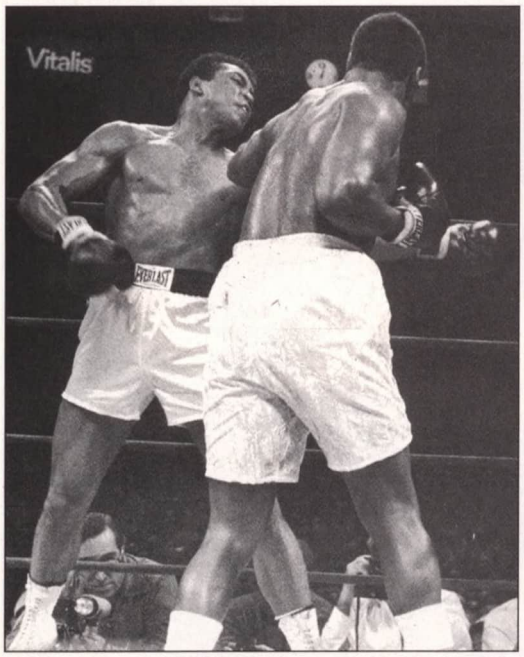
"Number two: Experience. I'll be able to stay away for four, five rounds, not walk into punches like Joe Frazier, like Joe 'King' Roman, like Ken Norton. After getting knocked down, they still walked into punches. Don't retreat, don't back up, get right back into hitting range. I think I'm a little smarter than that.

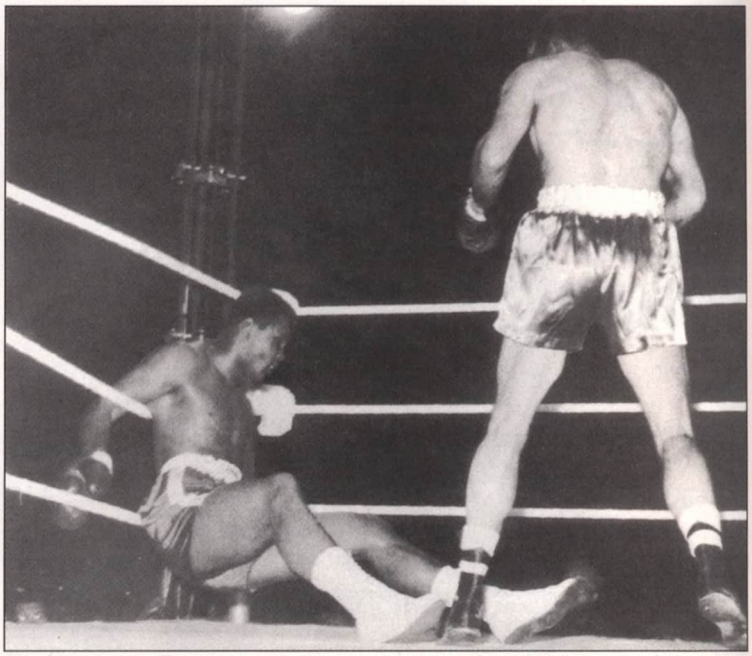
"Now, I've never seen George Foreman tired yet. George Foreman lately hasn't heard the man say, 'Round four, round seven, round nine, round 13. Last round.' I can't take nothing from George, but I haven't seen George in a good scuffle yet. Get winded, come back and take a few. Haven't seen George get hit—not hard, just constant."

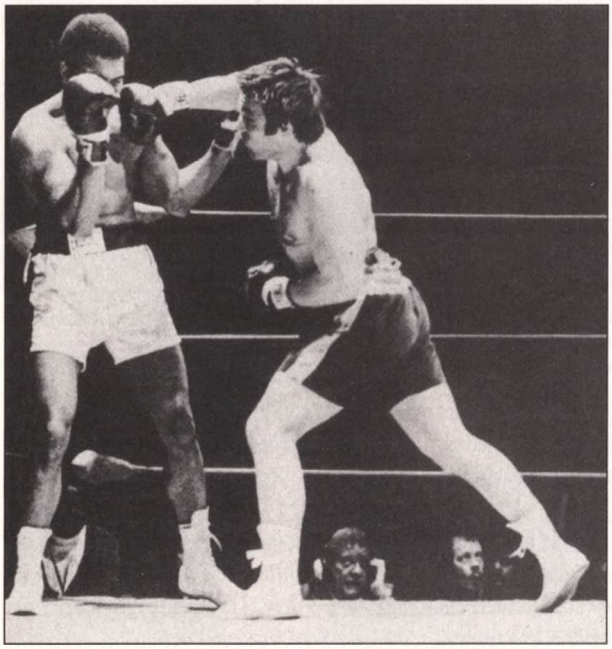
That brings up the major criticism against Ali—that he lacks an effective punch. Ali dismisses the criticism.

"Joe Frazier hit harder than me," Ali admits, then adds, "Floyd Patterson hit harder than me. Sonny Liston hit harder than me. George Chuvalo hit harder than me. Henry Cooper hit harder than me. When I fight a man, I don't rely on hitting power. When I fought Sonny Liston, hitting power didn't

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED







Ali said he wasn't worried about Foreman's punching power, because virtually all of his major opponents had been harder punchers than he was. Ali included Joe Frazier (above left), Henry Cooper (pictured decking Ali in their 1963 bout, above right), and even George Chuvalo (below left), who had lost a pair of decisions to Ali prior to the Ali-Foreman fight.

mean nothing. I fix it so they can't find nothing to hit. So I never worry about hitting power. Experience is why I know I will win."

If training can do it, Ali has every reason to believe he'll leave the African nation of Zaire as heavyweight champion of the world. He has begun a four-month regimen of training, which he admits far exceeds any preparation for a previous bout.

"I'm gonna chop down all my trees," Ali promises, "and I've got a health food man to give me all sorts of extra vitamins. I'm ordering a special heavybag, everything's gonna be ready. I'm getting out all my trick books, I'm gonna put it all together. My dancing shoes will be sparkling. I'm gonna be dancing from round one."

How long Ali can keep dancing will decide the outcome of the bout. Many feel the spring is gone from the legs, the legendary speed a skill of the past. When he's asked if he can dance for 15 rounds, his face loses its animated friendliness for a moment and the rhythm of his monologues changes.

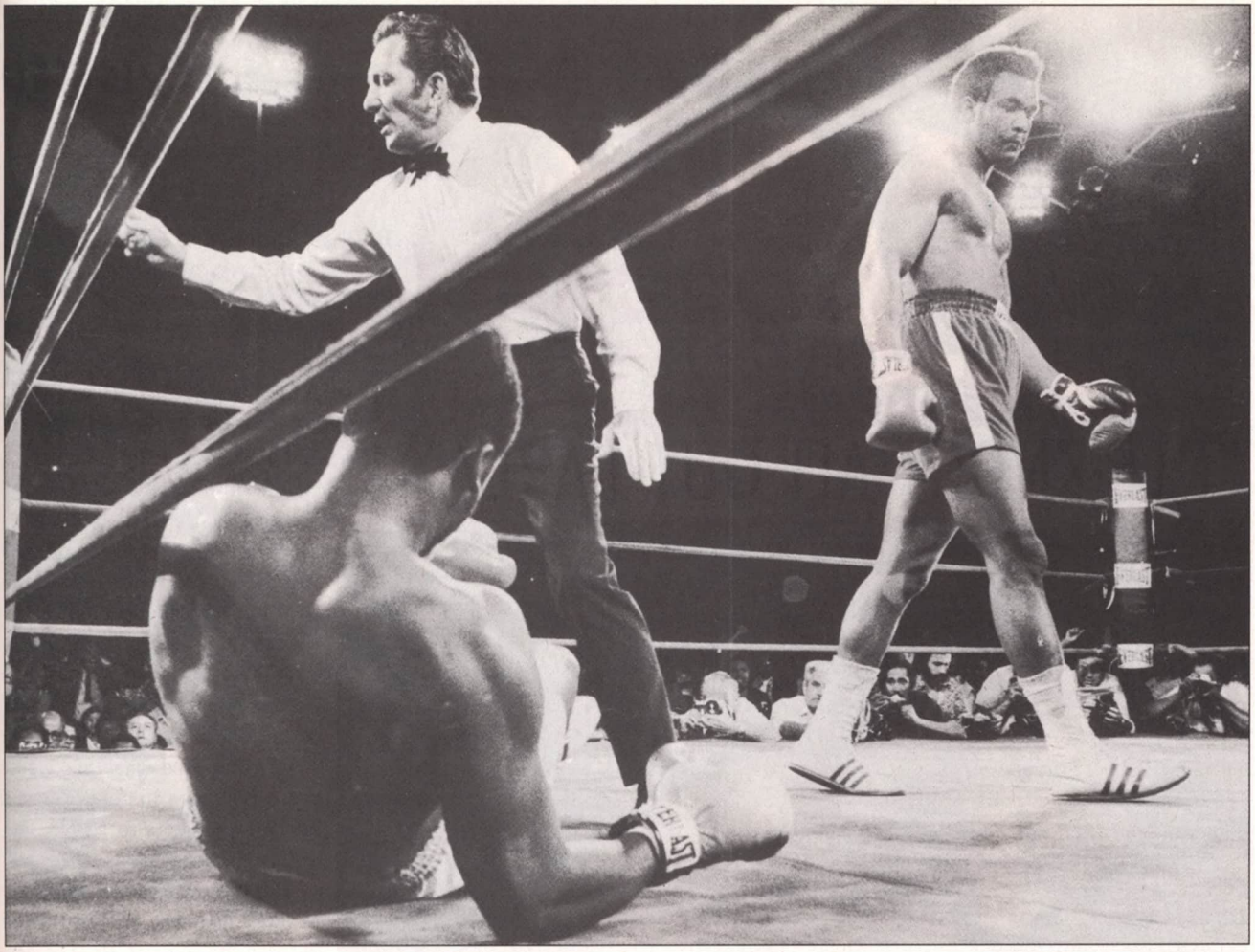
"Go look at the last Frazier films," Muhammad instructs coldly. "I can dance."

As for the heavyweight champion, "George has never fought for the title," Ali claims. "When I fought Joe Frazier, I won the fight. But because of the draft, because of religion, I lost the fight.

"George didn't fight the real champion. He fought a man out of shape. It wasn't the Joe Frazier who fought me for the second time. I don't know why these fighters get ready for me. That wasn't the Joe Frazier that fought me. That wasn't the Ken Norton that fought me. He admitted himself he forgot his plan because of fear. So when he fought Joe Frazier he didn't fight for the real title.

"When he fought Joe 'King' Roman, it wasn't a title defense. This'll be George Foreman's first title fight. George will be meeting the *real* heavyweight champion. Then he'll get a new fear he's never had before. Especially when he hears the man say, 'Round seven!'"

When it comes to Foreman's talent, Ali generously admits, "Can't take nothing from George Foreman. Ken Norton fought 24 rounds with me, gave me trouble, pure hell. And I put my word out that this man would whup George Foreman. George Foreman just knocked him over, no contest.



Not even Foreman's destruction of previously undefeated Joe Frazier impressed Ali. He wanted to know why Frazier kept getting up if Foreman was such a devastating hitter. Ali also accused Foreman of being a dirty fighter.

Then Joe Frazier, a man who gave me trouble twice, George Foreman just whopped him over. So I can't take anything away from George Foreman."

Yet, Ali becomes sarcastic when asked to comment on Foreman's awesome punching power.

"He hits so hard he knocked Joe Frazier down six times. Joe Frazier ended up on his feet. He knocked Joe 'King' Roman down three times. He hits so hard he knocked Ken Norton down three times.

"Now, Sonny Liston used to hit them and they'd *stay* out. They'd slap them and give them smelling salts and be glad they're not dead. Joe Louis hit them—they'd *stay* out. George Foreman pushes. And they get up and he knocks them down again. They get up and he pushes them down again. He hits awfully hard."

Ali claims to be unconcerned about the eventuality that Foreman could send him to the canvas.

"The greatest fighters get knocked down," Ali declares. "That's where experience comes in. He's gotta be able to think. See, I don't eat pork. Muslims don't eat pork. My mind ain't like pork eaters'. If I get hit, I play smart. I play possum, I retreat, I keep out of the way. I just don't run in and get hit again."

Ali also claims "George Foreman is a dirty fighter!

"When I say dirty, I don't mean morally. His style is dirty. When he fought Joe Frazier, he deliberately hit Frazier on the back of the head when [Frazier] moved away. Not even a scientific heavyweight punch, like a lady's slap (to demonstrate his point, Ali swats at the air like a young girl throwing a baseball).

"Joe Frazier was down and he was one second from hitting Joe Frazier. It looked a little too dirty so he caught himself.

"Joe 'King' Roman was on the floor and he deliberately hit Roman when he was out. Ken Norton was on the ropes. The referee was breaking them, and he reached over and hit Norton. When Norton was down again and on the ropes, he deliberately hit Norton. He's a dirty fighter. And I don't want no dirt in Africa. If he gets dirty, I'll have to do some dirt.

"But he won't get dirty," Ali quickly adds, "when he sees all the brothers in the audience. Ali is a common name in Africa. Ain't no Foremans in Africa. We want a good, clean fight."

As far as Ali is concerned, when all is said and done, "The older the Ali the better. The second Ken Norton fight, the second Joe Frazier fight, I was older but better. I'm only 32. I'm gonna be all serious for this fight. I'm gonna be dancing from round one to round 24. I'm bringing the shuffling shoes.

"Do you know how I measure my speed before each fight? I go to my bedroom, hit the switch, cut the lights out, and be in my bed before the room gets dark!"

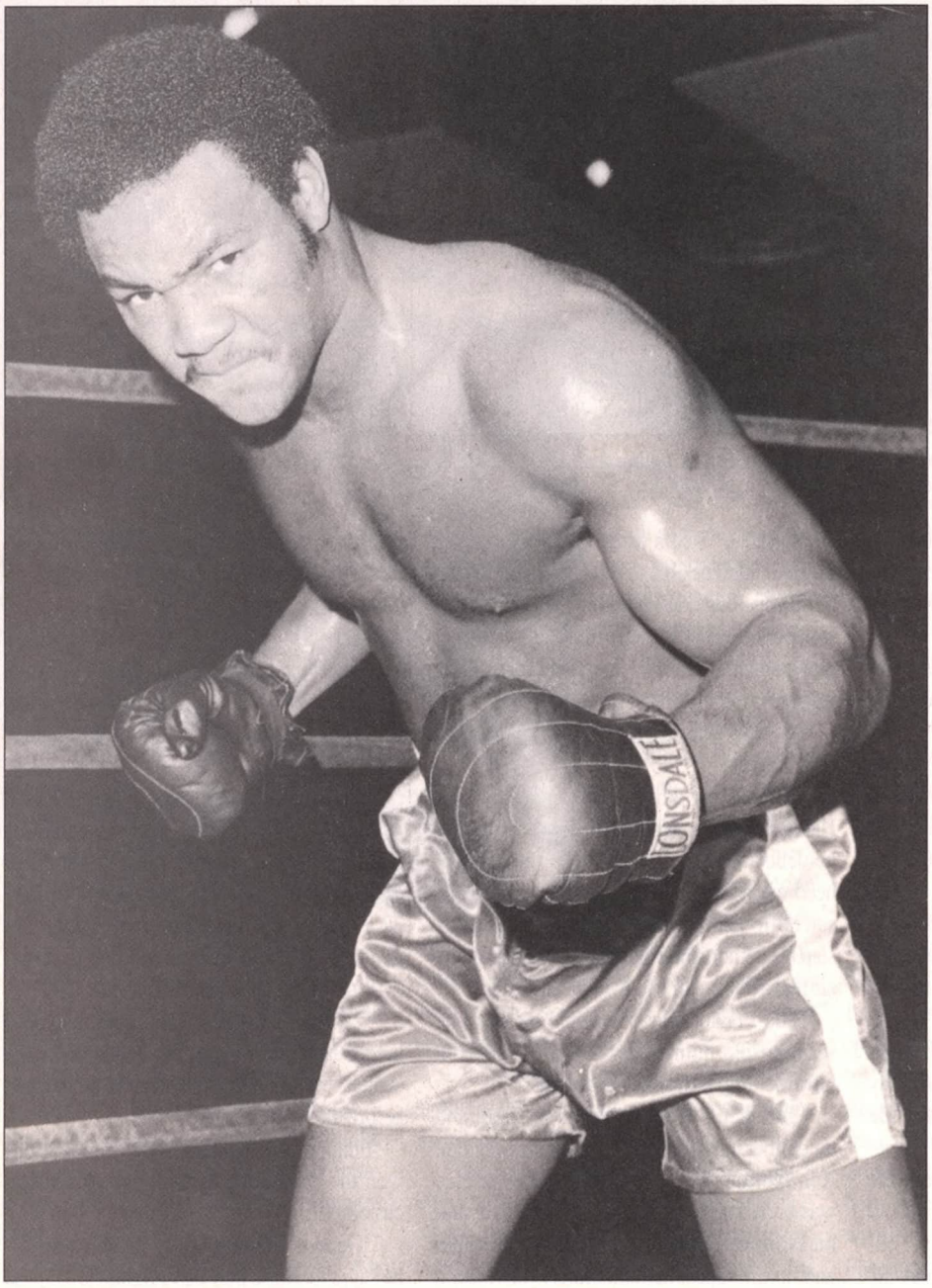
Finally, Ali explains why Foreman has won the admiration of the press as a rough customer.

"George Foreman looks rough to them," he says, "because they can't fight!" ■

GEORGE FOREMAN INSISTS "I'LL KNOCK ALI OUT EARLY"

By Dan Shocket

(*World Boxing*, November 1974)



It is the first championship fight to take place in an emerging African nation. More money will be earned by the participants for a single sporting event than in any other time in history. The legend of Muhammad Ali, the most controversial sports figure in the world, permeates the proceedings with the unspoken authority that only a legend can.

Almost lost in the excitement is George Foreman, who happens to be the one defending his heavyweight title. And when this global event becomes history, George Foreman expects to still be the heavyweight champion of the world.

Foreman is a fighter who feels he owes the public the best bout he can give and no more. He is uncomfortable in the public forum and appears for the press sporadically and only under duress. He is almost relieved Muhammad Ali commands such media attention, leaving him to pursue his trade in the greatest privacy he can manage.

Foreman is confident his fists will do the talking for him as they've done through his entire life. Talking is a means of communication upon which George Foreman has rarely had to rely. When the silence is broken, Foreman speaks with the quiet confidence befitting a champion. He is ready to predict the outcome of the fight with a casual certainty.

"I like to think it'll end pretty quick," Foreman says easily, "and I'll have a knockout and nobody will get hurt."

Foreman is remarkably calm for a man who will have the biggest fight of his career. He wishes to remain aloof, making him an un-

Foreman stands over Boone Kirkman, one of the 37 pro opponents he had knocked out in 40 fights prior to facing Ali in Zaire. Like most knockout artists, Foreman believed his awesome punching power could overcome any obstacle.

available target for Ali's barbed quips. He is a man striving for dignity, not publicity. He's a public figure who wishes to become a private person with self-respect. He wishes to keep personal criticism of Muhammad Ali as limited as possible, contending, "Two guys you can't ever say anything bad about are John Wayne and Muhammad Ali."

Still, Foreman realizes he has a responsibility to his public, the ones who are going to contribute a lot of money so he can walk away $5-million richer. For these he says the necessary words and makes the mandatory predictions.

"The fight will be a breeze," he'll say in his best gate-increasing manner, "and it will be short if I can help it."

Foreman has no illusions about his ability. He knows his strengths.

"I'm a puncher," he acknowledges, but quickly adds, "if he comes chinning to me, I'll get him."

The famed Ali speed, both past and present, are duly ridiculed, as would be

An unhappy looking Foreman is surrounded by media. Unlike Ali, back in the 1970s Foreman did not enjoy attending press conferences or being interviewed. He preferred to let his fists do the talking.

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

expected. However, this kind of required bragging and downgrading is something Foreman feels required to do rather than a task he relishes, like Ali.

"If he wants the championship," Foreman says predictably, "he can't run for it. Although the referee may have to tell him to go get it. There's an old saying, 'You got to bring some to get some,' and I sure won't be telling him, 'Please take my title.'"

Foreman has been successful enough to believe with justification that he can control what occurs during the fight. He is the aggressor. His power puts him immediately in charge.

"I believe that a man," Foreman says, "once he gets in the ring, does what *I let* him do. How would I stop Ali from running? By knocking him out. That's how."

You can't argue with logic like that. You also couldn't argue when that other great fighter, Joe Louis, declared, "He can run but he can't hide." Great punchers' minds run on the same track.

Foreman has learned a little from the Ali style of braggadocio, along with the rest of the world. When they accuse him of possessing a lumbering punch, Foreman has the rejoinder. It's not Ali, but it's the most outrageous George Foreman is going to get.

"Nobody can hit you as fast as I can!" he declares with a smile. "People say I wind 'em up, so that means I'm really twice as fast because I can tell you what I'm doing and still hit you."

Foreman has chosen to verbally dismiss Ali, not wanting to be embarrassed as Joe Frazier was by being sucked into a battle of wits against Ali.

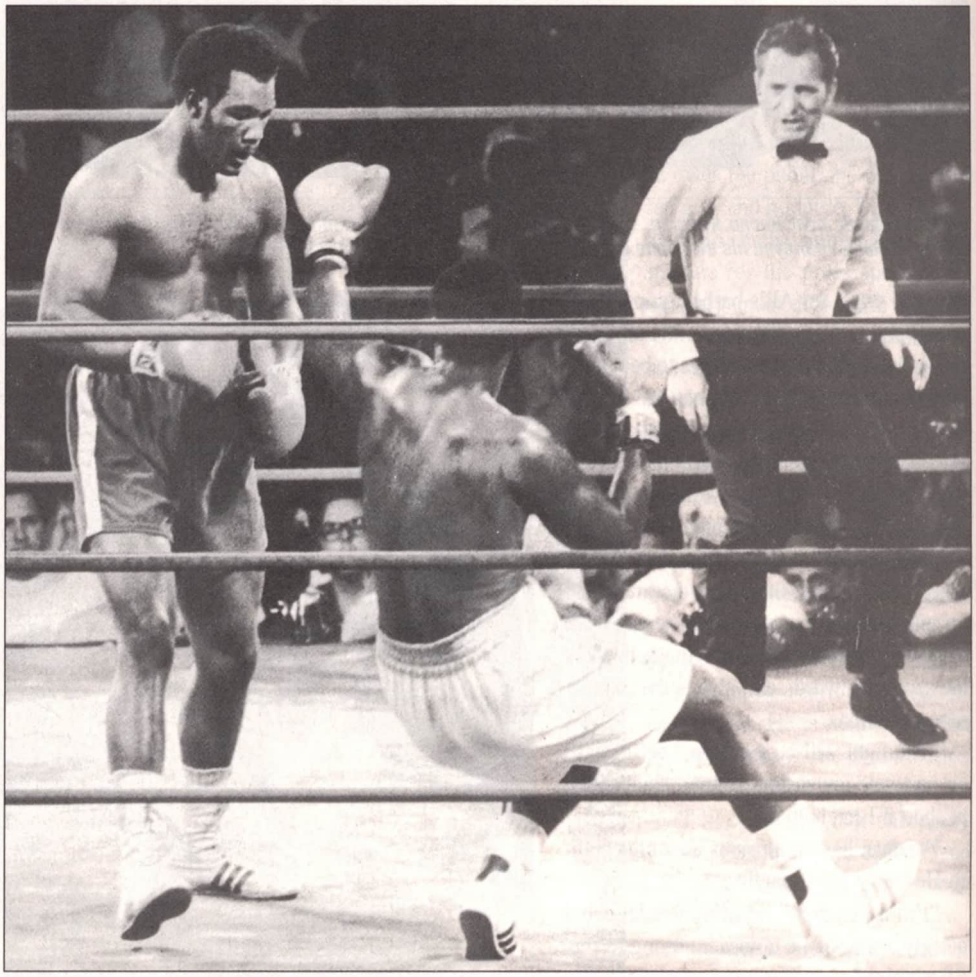
"From what I can see," Foreman says cockily, "Ali can't hurt anybody, except by talking." Foreman continues after the insult, betraying his greatest fear by adding, "I saw on TV where he got Joe Frazier almost crying by his talk, and just think how bad Joe would have felt if he'd hit him, too."

That's the way a reformed streetfighter talks, realizing he has a lot to lose by doing what comes naturally. Foreman isn't about to win the fight but lose the publicity buildup. In fact, what happens before the fight might just reflect on the outcome of the fight itself. Foreman is not going to let himself be talked out of the title.

George is very aware of his limitations and plans to be successful within them. Foreman isn't out to save the world or lead his race to salvation. George Foreman is willing to allow his public figure to be exploited as much as can be useful, but causes are not his realm.

"All I am is a fighter," Foreman admits. "I learned that three years ago. Remember, I'm not the greatest. I'm nothing special. I'm just a basic guy who exercises a lot."

Just a basic guy who plans to remain heavyweight champion for a long time. And he'll remain in that exalted position not by telling the world how he'll do it, but by doing it to the best of his ability. He'll let his fists do the talking, a means of communication he has depended on all of his life. ■



As much as anything else, it was Foreman's kayo victories over Joe Frazier (pictured) and Ken Norton that convinced most so-called experts and many fans that he would successfully defend the heavyweight title against Ali, most likely via kayo. It took Foreman just two rounds to dethrone Frazier.

BOXING BACK ISSUE WAREHOUSE SALE!

Back issues of *International Boxing*, *Big Book Of Boxing*, *KO Annual*, *Knockout*, and *Boxing Superstars & Superbouts*, and *The Ring Digest* are available!

Order now before our limited supplies are exhausted!

INTERNATIONAL BOXING

Feb. 1981: Gerry Cooney: One Fight Away From The Heavyweight Title. Also: Scalderosa, Weaver-Coetzee, Spinks brothers, Ali.

Dec. 1981: Heavyweight Contender Greg Page: Is He Better Than Cooney? Also: Duran, Sanchez-Gomez, Taylor.

Feb. 1982: The Only Man Sugar Ray Leonard Is Afraid To Fight. Also: Escalera, Benitez-Duran, Robinson-LaMotta, Sims.

June 1982: Wilfred Benitz Eyes His Fourth World Title: Can He Beat Marvin Hagler? Also: Weaver, Buchanan, M. Spinks, Leonard.

Aug. 1982: Michael Spinks & Howard Davis Jr.: Different Destinies On The Road From Montreal. Also: Richard Sandoval, Big John Tate, Jimmy Bradock, 1956 in review.

Feb. 1983: Howard Davis Jr.: "Why I'll Win The Lightweight Title This Time!" Also: Snipes, Fletcher-Green, Mustafa Muhammad, Tubbs.

April 1983: "The Pain From The Tragedy Has Passed," By Ray Mancini. Also: Broad, Hearns-Benitez, 1982 in review.

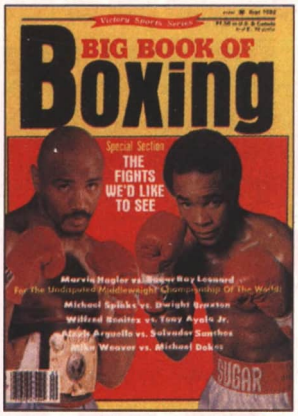
Aug. 1983: Hector "Macho" Camacho: Even The Best Of Two Divisions Can't Halt His Charge To The Top. Also: Pryor-Arguello II preview, Rossman, Randolph, Collins.

BIG BOOK OF BOXING

Sept. 1982: The Fights We'd Like To See—Leonard-Hagler, Spinks-Braxton, Benitez-Ayala Jr., Arguello-Sanchez, Weaver-Dokes. Also: Liston-Foreman dream fight.

July 1983: Michael Dokes: How He Can Restore The Decayed WBA Title. Also: Torres, Burns, young heavyweights, Patterson-Johansson, Pryor-Armstrong dream fight.

March 1984: Suppose Sugar Ray Leonard Never Retired, Part I. Also:



Tunney, lightweights, Pep-Pedroza dream fight.

Sept. 1984: Gerry Cooney's Comeback: The 12 Herculean Tasks He Must Complete. Also: Jack Sharkey, Holmes-Foreman dream fight, Jack Johnson, That Wonderful Year: 1958.

July 1985: Championship Corner: Donald Curry vs. Colin Jones. Also: Napoles-Griffith, Ali, Charles, 10 meanest fighters, Spinks-Galindez dream fight.

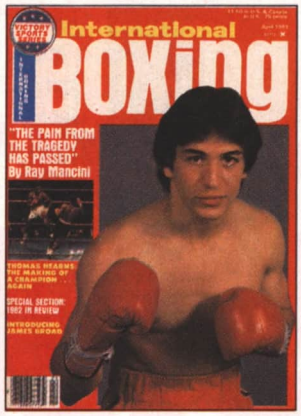
KO ANNUAL

1983 Edition: Superfight '83—Marvin Hagler vs. Roberto Duran. Previews & Analysis, full records and bios, who will win and why.

KNOCKOUT

Winter 1988: Sugar Ray Leonard vs. The All-Time Greats. Includes: Features on boxing's "young turks," heavyweight scrapbook part IV.

Spring 1988: A Legend In The Making—Mike Tyson: A Collection Of His Greatest



Hits. Includes: Eight Tyson features, fights you'd like to see, heavyweight scrapbook (part I).

Summer 1988: Tyson vs. Spinks: A Preview Of The Heavyweight Showdown. Includes: Superfight preview, features on nine other superfights, heavyweight scrapbook (part II).

Winter 1989: Leonard vs. Duran: The Rubber Match. Includes: Best fights (1951-1976).

Spring 1989: The Year In Pictures: A Month-By-Month Recap Of 1988. Includes: Tyson, Bruno, Hearns, Armstrong.

Fall 1989: The War That Didn't Settle The Score: Is Hearns-Leonard III Ahead? Includes: Saddler, Sanchez, heavyweight fights' last rounds, best of KO Interview.

Spring 1991: Evander Holyfield—The Stories Of His Success. Includes: Eight Holyfield features, Ali vs. Jack Johnson, Tony Ayala.

Winter 1992: The Dynamite Dozen—The Greatest Fighters Of The Past 25 Years. Includes: Ali, Duran, Napoles, Tyson, Chavez.

Spring 1993: Riddick Bowe & Lennox Lewis—The Pride Of Two Nations. Includes: 12 full-length features and interviews with the reigning heavyweight champs.

Summer 1993: The Multi-Division Greats! Includes: Leonard, Chavez, Armstrong, Canzoneri, and more.

Fall 1993: Controversy & Scandal—The Most Outrageous Boxing Stories Of The Past 30 Years. Includes: Tyson, Leonard-Duran II, Chavez-Taylor I, Whitaker-Ramirez, Panama Lewis, and more.

Winter 1993: Middleweight Mania! The Best 160-Pounders Of The Last 25 Years. Includes: Leonard, Toney, McCallum, Eubank, Monzon, and more.

SUPERSTARS & SUPERFIGHTS

May 1998: De La Hoya, Holyfield, Hamed, Hopkins, Blue Horizon. 36 all-color pages.

July 1998: Tyson, Tapia, Martin, Manfredy-Gatti. 36 all-color pages.

September 1998: Lewis-Briggs, Chavez, Trinidad, Foreman, Phillips, De La Hoya, sluggers. 36 all-color pages.

Winter 1998: De La Hoya Special. Includes double-sided 21" x 30" poster.

Spring 1999: Holyfield vs. Lewis special. Preview & analysis, biofiles, tale of the tape, key questions, pro records, experts' picks.

THE RING DIGEST

Winter 1998: Roy Jones: "I'm Two Different People." Plus: De La Hoya, Bowe, Hamed, Vargas, Reid, Martin.

Summer 1998: Fighter Of The Year (Again!)—An Exclusive Interview With Evander Holyfield. Plus: Foreman, Campas, Lewis, De La Hoya, Morales, Rijker, Tapia, Calzaghe, McCall, Hamed, Gatti.

Fall 1998: Oscar De La Hoya: Will He Retire Undefeated? Plus: Hamed, Tyson, Trinidad, Reid, Lewis, Tate, Hopkins, Jones, McCullough, Grant.

SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 Each

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum).

Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ State____ Zip_____

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

For all orders outside of the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be delivered by surface mail and $3 for everyback issue ordered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

WAREHOUSE SALE

INTERNATIONAL
☐ FEB/81
☐ DEC/81
☐ FEB/82
☐ JUN/82
☐ AUG/82
☐ FEB/83
☐ APR/83
☐ AUG/83

BIG BOOK
☐ SEP/82
☐ JUL/83
☐ MAR/84
☐ SEP/84
☐ JUL/85

KO ANNUAL
☐ 1983

KNOCKOUT
☐ WIN/88
☐ SPR/88
☐ SUM/88
☐ WIN/89
☐ SPR/89
☐ FAL/89
☐ SPR/91
☐ WIN/92
☐ SPR/93
☐ SUM/93
☐ FAL/93
☐ WIN/93

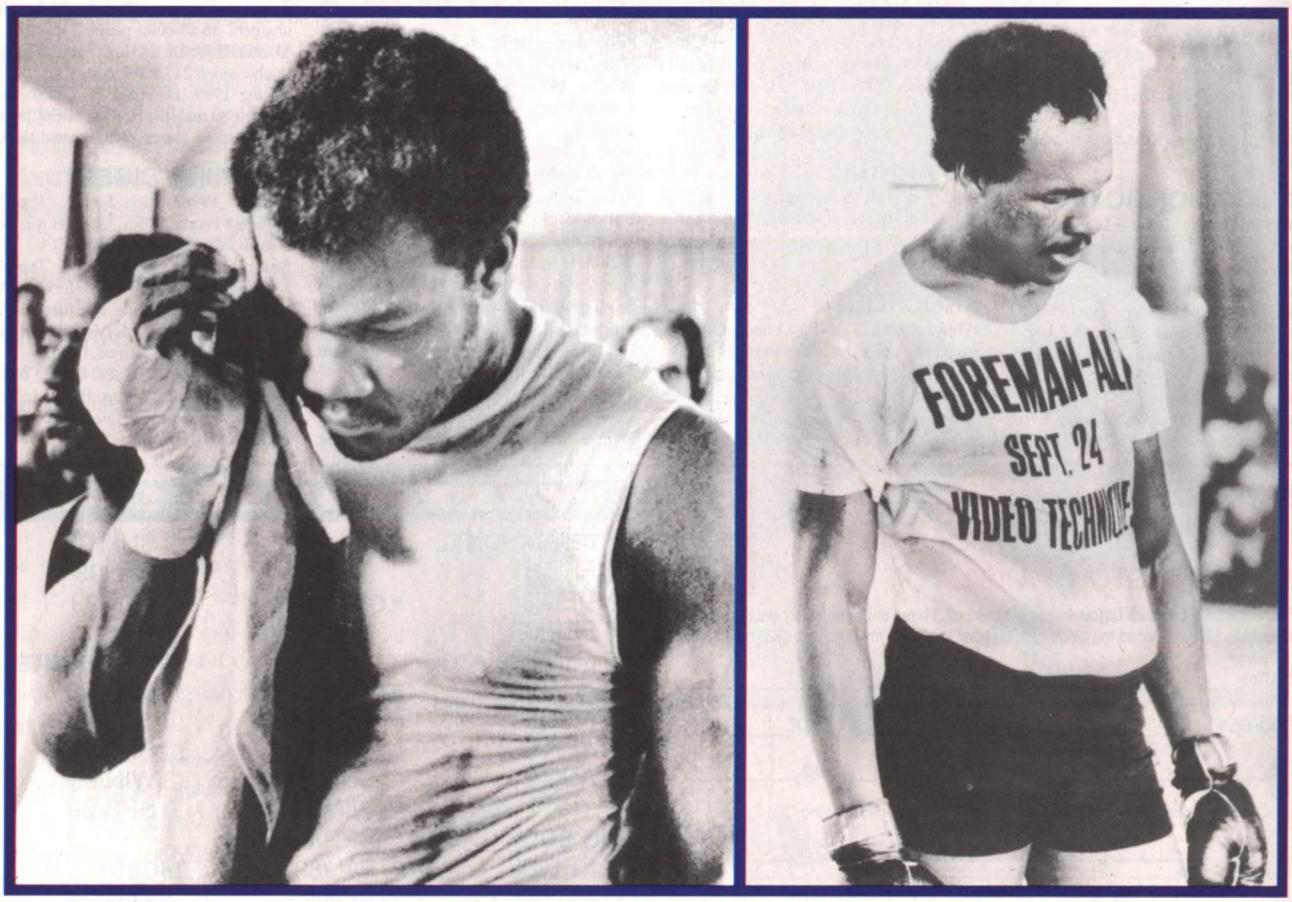
STARS/FIGHTS
☐ MAY/98
☐ JUL/98
☐ SEP/98
☐ WIN/98
☐ SPR/99

DIGEST
☐ WIN/98
☐ SUM/98
☐ FAL/98

In case of sellout, please list alternate choice:_____

7004/08-04

ALI-FOREMAN: THE $10-MILLION GAMBLE



Foreman dabs at his cut eye (left) after the disastrous sparring session that postponed his fight with Ali, as sparring partner Bill McMurray (right), a part-time truck driver, looks on dejectedly. Originally, McMurray claimed a punch caused the cut, but later changed his mind and said it was an errant elbow.

(*World Boxing*, January 1975)

The best thing ever to happen to George Foreman may have been a one-inch gash he sustained over his right eye during a sparring session that caused the postponement of his title fight against Muhammad Ali. However, it may mean disaster for almost everyone else!

Foreman was reported to be *30 pounds* overweight for the fight. He repeatedly refused to be photographed without a T-shirt. As the fight approached, his weight became more and more of a problem.

As of this writing, the fight is scheduled to take place on October 29, 1974. This will give Foreman a full month more to work on his weight problem. He will almost surely be in better condition than he would have been for the original September date. Instead of being disappointed, Foreman should be overjoyed!

As for Ali, he had carefully and successfully approached his peak. In perfect condition, the body of Muhammad Ali was as ready as it would it ever be for the fight. His mind was also carefully working itself up to an emotional peak. The one-month layoff couldn't help him and could very easily hurt him. What hurts Ali obviously helps Foreman.

Whether or not the fight will come off as rescheduled is a matter of strong conjecture. The officials of Zaire declared the fight would positively take place on the new date. Foreman's manager, Dick Sadler, was quick to tell newsmen that no matter what officials had promised, the heavyweight champion would not fight until he had fully healed.

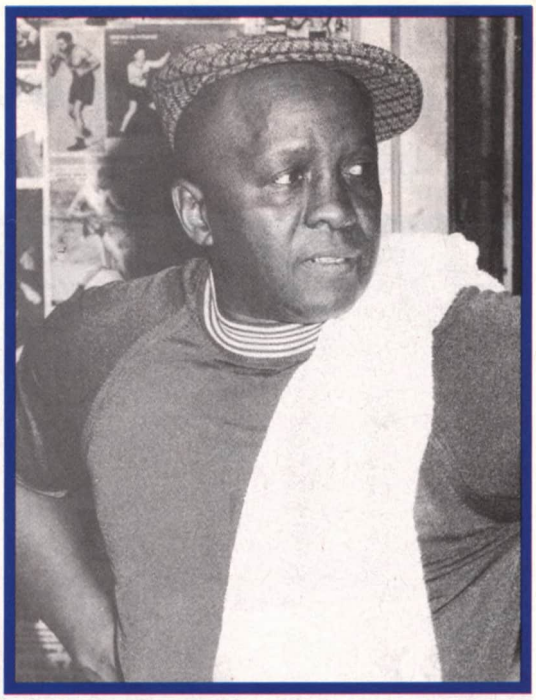
The Zairian officials, when first told of the cut Foreman suffered in a sparring session, announced it was not deep or wide enough to postpone the fight. They did everything in their power to reassure everyone the fight would take place as originally scheduled.

After a day's negotiations, it was a Zairian official who announced the postponement. And even that announcement was undercut by Sadler's warning.

Thus, the one occurrence the government of the newly emerging country feared had happened. It had bargained successfully for the fight in hopes of establishing its stability in the eyes of the world. If their country could successfully bring off the most profitable sporting event in history, it was hoped others would be willing to invest money in the country. Zaire needed everything to go off without a hitch to create the proper impression.

In its desperation, it may have destroyed in one day what for months had been a remarkable success. The government had first announced the fight would take place on schedule. Then it was forced to retract this statement and announce the postponement. As if its credibility hadn't been hurt enough, there was Dick Sadler saying, "Don't listen to them. I'm in charge."

So the government of Zaire put itself out on a limb, but Dick Sadler owned the saw. All of their time, all of their money, all of their hopes, will be wasted if Sadler tells the country his fighter will not appear as promised. Instead of trapping Sadler, they have trapped themselves.



Although Zaire government officials quickly announced a new date for the fight, Foreman's trainer, Dick Sadler (pictured), told everybody that he would decide when Foreman was ready to fight. Many in the media thought that the extra time would benefit the defending champion, who looked overweight when he was cut.

Even if the fight does go off as planned, would-be investors will have the lasting picture of the government panicking under pressure. After trying to become so intrinsically involved with the fight's arrangements to prove their stability, they were unable to extricate themselves gracefully when a crisis occurred. They should have remained aloof, assuring all parties the facilities would be ready when this thing was settled. After all, what investor likes to see government interference with business, especially incompetent interference?

However, it had been decided long before this that the bout would be the last such event to take place in Africa for a long time to come.

Almost every month would bring an announcement of even further reductions in the price of the travel package that would let the tourist explore Zaire and have a fine seat for the fight. When asked if the reduction would apply to those who already bought tickets, there would be the forlorn admission none had been sold.

Due to the great distance from media centers to Zaire, prefight publicity had been at an embarrassing minimum. Though closed-circuit ticket sales had been steady, they were far below what promoters had hoped for.

The publicity may even be reduced. Reporters faced the possibility of being stranded in Zaire for at least a month. Many publishers called them back to return the night of the fight, if at all. The main objective of the government, to get a steady outflow of favorable publicity, has been destroyed.

Also, prefight publicity in the crucial week before the bout had to be seriously curtailed. Most newspapers would now rely on wire service dispatches instead of having their own personnel present. People who read only columnists would be reading about other events. Film crews would also leave the country, eliminating the all-important television coverage.

Another problem caused by the postponement is the weather. By moving the fight (hopefully) into late-October, the bout falls under the threat of the Central African rainy season—not the best terms under which to hold an outdoor fight.

Though May Stadium, the site of the bout, can hold 80,000 persons, live attendance projections had about 16,000 Zairians and perhaps 12,000 foreigners attending. Aside from the cost involved,

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

When Foreman's injury put the fight in jeopardy, it was a blow to Zaire's image, but there were other people with almost as much on the line, including Hank Schwartz, president of Video Techniques (left) and a young promoter by the name of Don King (bottom).

the fact that Kinshasa has only 500 beds available in first-class hotels didn't help. Had the fight been held in the Astrodome, for example, 55,000 seats could have been sold, as well as the same amount, or perhaps a larger number, of closed-circuit theater tickets.

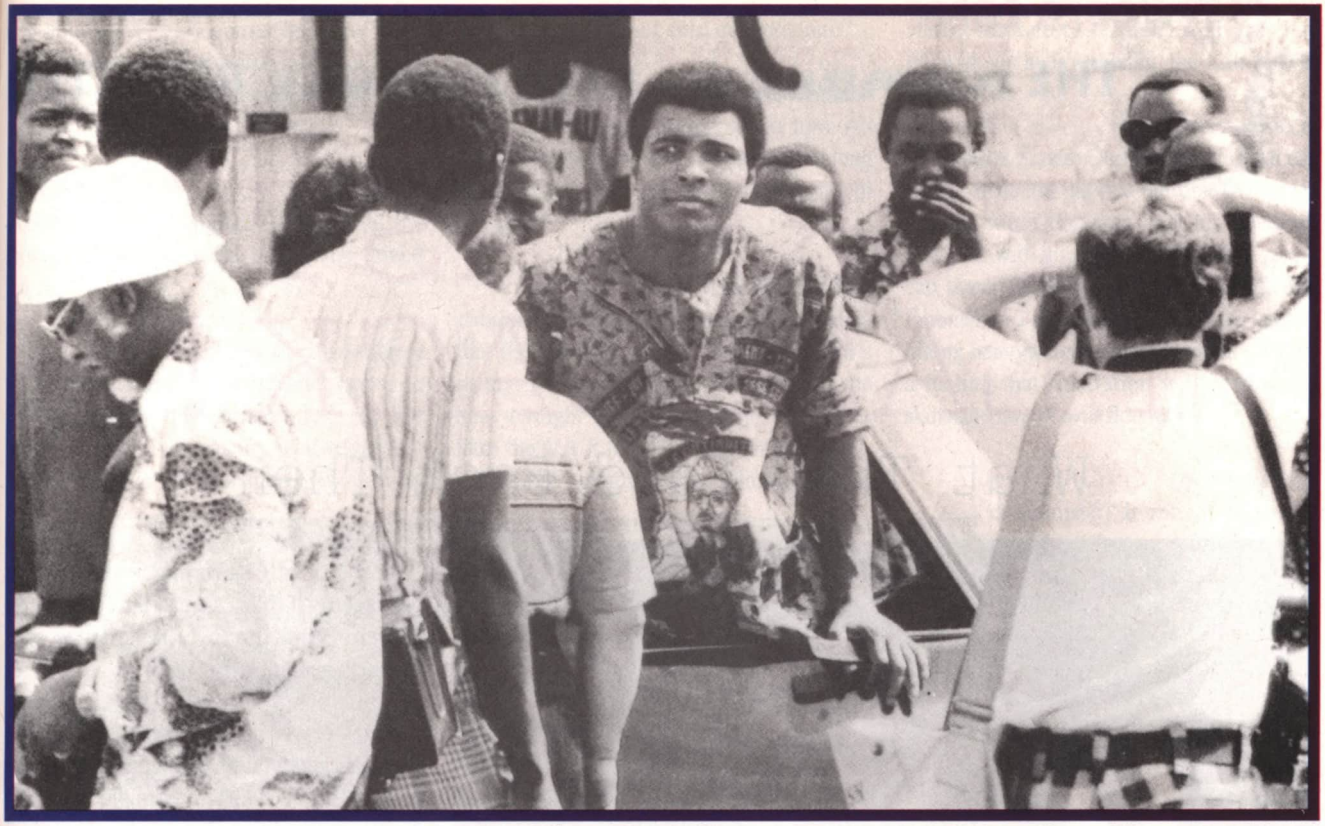
The delay wasn't a day old before people were ready to suggest a new site. Mike Burke, president of Madison Square Garden, hopefully announced, "Maybe what this demonstrates is that Madison Square Garden is the most logical place to hold a championship fight. If it becomes impractical to hold the fight in Zaire, if there is any chance at all for us to get this fight, we would certainly be eager to buy the live gate rights."

All over the country promoters began panting and waiting. After all, it became doubtful Zaire would get much more publicity than it has already received. Perhaps the government would be ready to accept the money already spent as an investment and hope the debacle of the postponement would be forgotten.

Whatever the outcome, Bill McMurray, a 38-year-old truck driver, has earned himself a strange sort of immortality. Moonlighting as a sparring partner, this man caused the postponement of the richest sporting event in world history!

McMurray allegedly did what no other man had ever managed to do. With 16-ounce gloves, and with George Foreman wearing headgear, McMurray somehow cut the heavyweight champion over the right eye. He did this to a man who had not been cut during 40 professional and dozens of amateur fights!

McMurray was doing his job, imitating the dancing Ali's style. He even sustained a cut mouth as part of his labors. In the third round of sparring, Foreman ducked, weaved, and then shot out punches with



Naturally, Ali, who had worked himself into top physical and mental condition, had plenty to say about Foreman's cut. He even went as far as suggesting Foreman fight wearing headgear and promising not to hit him in the wounded eye. But when his bizarre proposition was rejected, Ali had to wait until the end of October to finally get Foreman in the ring with him.

both hands. McMurray covered up. When both men stepped back, their T-shirts were covered with blood.

As soon as the gash was spotted, Sadler flew into the ring and applied a towel compress to the wound. Then, with funeral quiet, the group trudged into the dressing room to examine a cut all knew was just as bad as it looked.

Then came the official announcement of the cut and the government's panicky, absolutely wrong reaction. In the middle, for the first and probably last time, was McMurray.

"I came down here to help him," McMurray explained through tears when told of the severity of the cut and its ramifications. "He is my friend. I live near him in Sacramento."

McMurray, at first, claimed the gash felt round the world was produced by a punch. After either questioning or prompting by Foreman's corner, he said the cut came from an errant elbow.

"It was a freak thing," added Sadler, dispelling any speculation the Foreman camp blamed McMurray for the accident.

As for Foreman, he sat depressed on the training table and said, "A lot of hard work has been put into this thing by a lot of people."

Naturally, the Ali camp also plunged into a state of confusion and depression. Just as naturally, Muhammad Ali was not at a loss for words.

"I feel as though somebody close to me just died," Muhammad said when he heard the news. "It is at the worst of all times and the worst thing that could have happened. It is just a big mess."

Then Ali decided, "It is the will of Allah. Our knowledge is too limited to judge the actions of God. This happened for a reason. We will find that out later. If I won, the people love me so much, and are so excitable, they would have stampeded and made the ring collapse and some of them would have died."

Despite the will of Allah, Ali came up with an alternate plan to hold the fight, explaining, "Let's hold the fight anyway and if it is stopped on a cut because of that eye, he'll get a rematch. I'll sign a paper to that effect right now!

"Let's patch up the eye. Put a Band-Aid on it! I'll beat him without hitting the eye! I'll make every effort not to hit it. I promise! I'll let him wear a headpiece.

"Hey, can they bring in [Joe] Frazier? Get Frazier, get [Jerry] Quarry! Get anybody!"

Ali had a right to be anxious. Everything was crumbling around him. Here he was in the best shape of his life. He must have relished each report of Foreman's weight problem. Suddenly this advantage vanishes and Ali must laboriously work himself back into his emotional and physical peak.

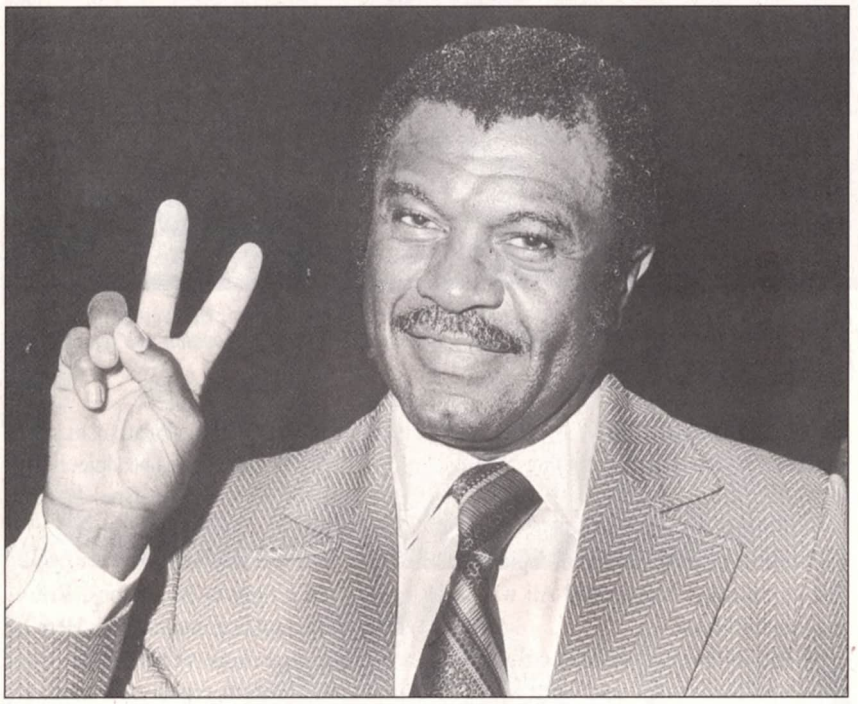
The Ali-Foreman fight was a $10,000,000 gamble. It was a gamble for the promoters and for the Republic of Zaire. It was a gamble thrown into jeopardy by a one-inch cut.

Normally, such a postponement would not affect a fight. But when one considers the logistics involved in setting this one up, the one-inch cut could prove to be disastrous.

Except for Foreman. The postponement will give him enough time to lose the spare tire he was lugging around with him and allow him to get back into top shape—whenever and wherever that happens. ■

FORECAST FLASHBACK!

What They Said Back Then



Eddie Futch thought Foreman would win if he got Ali on the ropes

There were basically two groups of Ali supporters going into the Foreman fight: true believers and those who wanted him to win but didn't think he would. By 1974, Ali was already a beloved iconic figure. Even people who had never seen a boxing match in their lives wanted him back on the heavyweight throne.

But it was impossible to deny the threat that Foreman posed. The way he'd bludgeoned his way to 40 consecutive victories was downright frightening, especially his dismissals of Joe Frazier and Ken Norton, both of whom had beaten Ali. That the defending champion entered the ring a 3-1 favorite was no shock. If anything, it was a bit surprising the odds weren't wider.

The following predictions are a representative sample of what folks within the media and fight fraternity were thinking on the eve of what was to become one of the most celebrated heavyweight title fights of all-time.

LESTER BROMBERG (*New York Post* columnist): "No way is the only way Muhammad Ali is going to beat George Foreman. There's not a trick he can pull, short of carrying a pistol in his trunks, that will do the job. Foreman is much too brutal a young man for the colorful old man. I say it will not go beyond the sixth round; it may be less."

WILLIE PEP (former featherweight champion): "I think Ali can hit Foreman on the chin and dump him. I never saw Foreman get hit on the chin."

EDDIE FUTCH (trainer): "When Foreman gets you on the ropes, you're not going to get away. It's that simple."

JIM JACOBS (fight film historian): "If you ask me who I want to win, the answer is Ali. But I can scarcely imagine any set of circumstances where Ali would win—short of interference from some higher power."

CARLOS ORTIZ (former lightweight champion): "Foreman is too damned big,

Harry Markson's prediction was right on the money

too aggressive, very consistent. Clay's not going to be able to backpedal the way he did with other fighters. Foreman will annihilate him in three, four rounds."

HAROLD WESTON JR. (welterweight): "I like Foreman. He's got all the bombs, all the youth. The tables have turned on Ali."

RANDY NEUMANN (heavyweight): "I think Ali has the style and savvy to win. The only question is his legs. For purely subjective reasons, I always pick the boxer over the puncher. I'm sold on Ali, but I'm still not sold on Foreman."

SANDY SADDLER (former featherweight champion): "If George hits him, Ali ain't going to win, and 15 rounds is a long time for a man to stay in the ring without being hit."

PHIL PEPE (New York *Daily News* columnist): "I think the real ingredient in this fight is ego, vanity, Muhammad Ali's vanity. He has convinced himself he is the heavyweight champion of the world. He likes the way it feels, he revels in the recognition, the attention, the idolatry. Men of vanity respond to challenge. Muhammad Ali will win by knockout in the 12th."

HARRY MARKSON (former president of Madison Square Garden): "I think Ali can win it. If he can survive the first five or six rounds, when Foreman is at his powerful best, Ali, with his experience, his ring savvy, can thwart Foreman. While I concede that Foreman is a powerful puncher—the hardest hitting heavyweight since Marciano—I have a feeling that frustration will destroy his skills and that he will flounder."

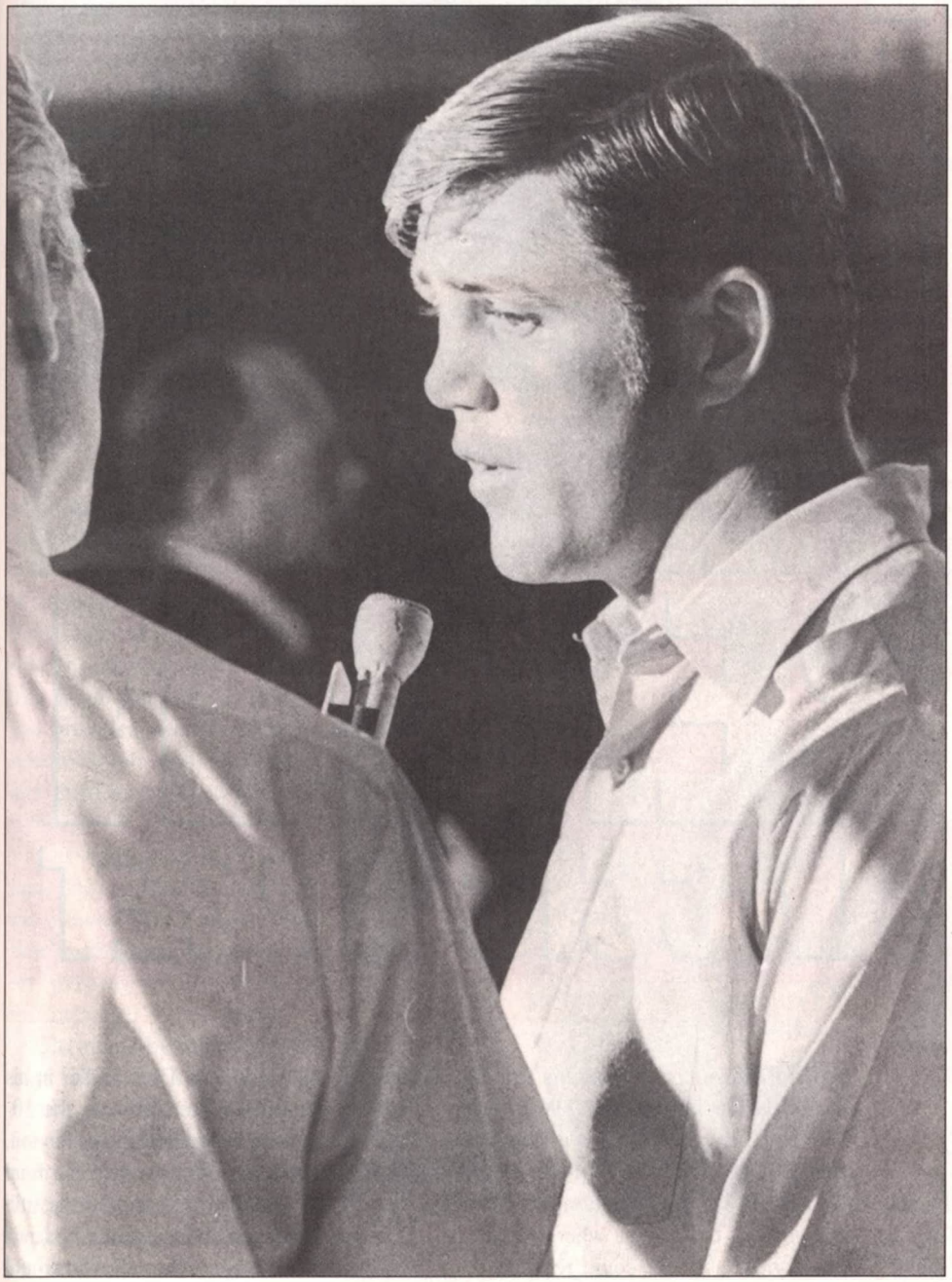
LARRY MERCHANT (*New York Post* columnist): "It ends in the same round that Louis caught Conn and Marciano caught Walcott, the 13th, with George Foreman finally catching Muhammad Ali."

DAVE ANDERSON (*The New York Times* columnist): "The only unknown factor is how the gladiators will react to competing at 4 o'clock in the morning. To compensate for it, they both expected to take a nap around 8 o'clock in the evening. Ali will take another nap later on. In his white satin trunks."

IKE GELLIS (*New York Post* sports editor): "I like Ali to really test Foreman. Ali will have to stay away from the hard-punching champion early in the going, but I think he'll win. And don't be surprised if Ali wins by a kayo."

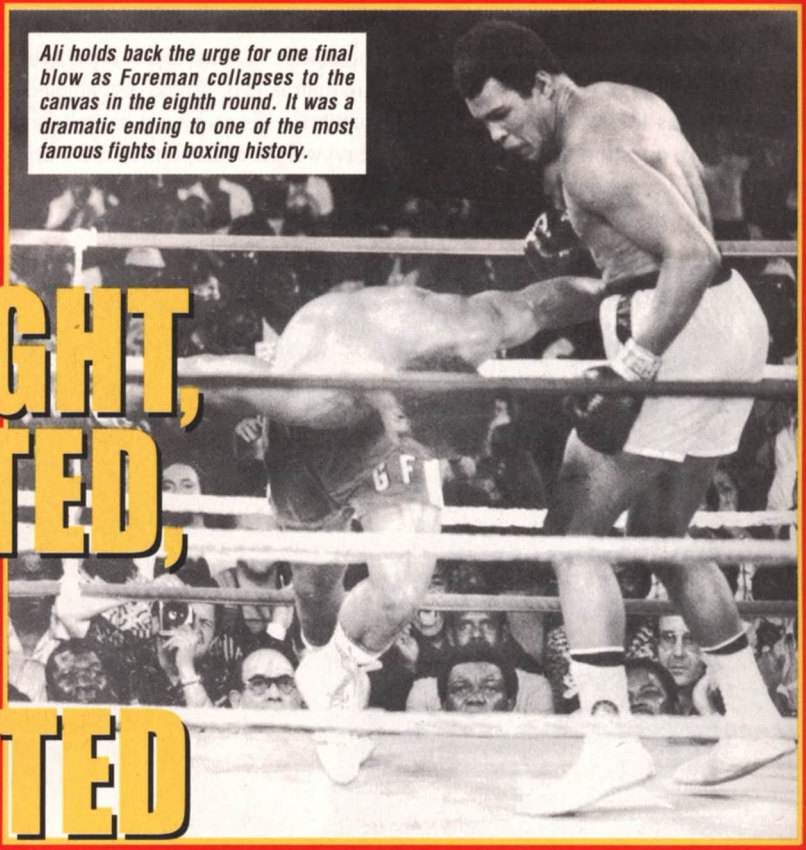
DAN SHOCKET (*International Boxing* associate editor): "Muhammad will probably last longer than Frazier or Norton, but not by much. Ali may push himself for three or four rounds at the most. By then, he'll be tired and flat-footed and a target. It will be short work for the champion."

JERRY QUARRY (heavyweight): "Foreman will win because he's too strong, punches too hard, and is too big for Ali. Foreman will knock out Ali by the fourth round, if not earlier." ■



Jerry Quarry was sure Foreman would be too much for Ali

ALI OUTFOUGHT, OUTLASTED, AND OUTWITTED FOREMAN IN A CLASSIC UPSET



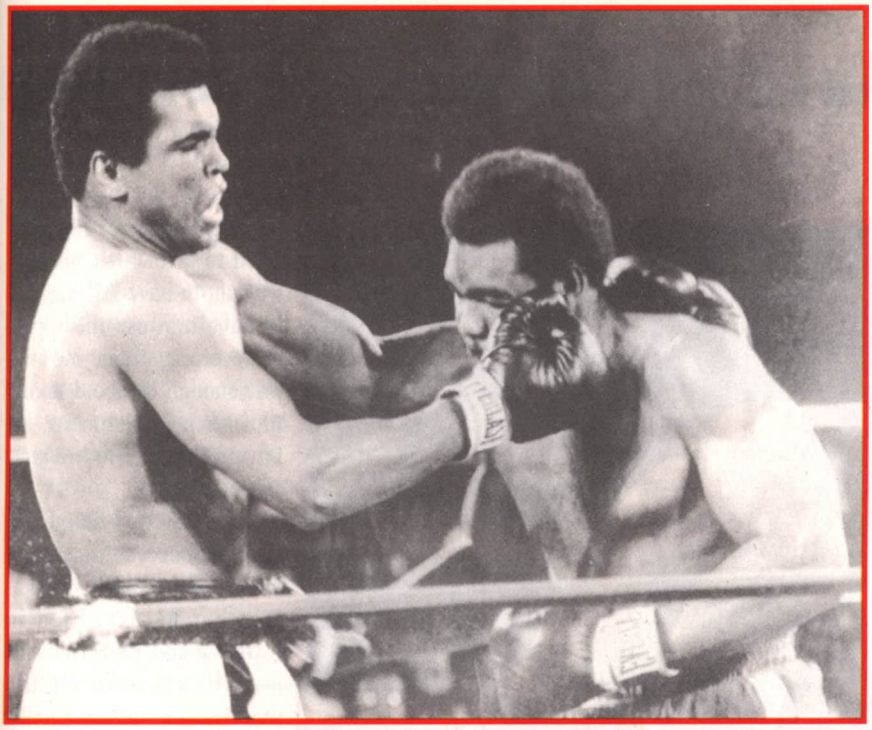
Ali holds back the urge for one final blow as Foreman collapses to the canvas in the eighth round. It was a dramatic ending to one of the most famous fights in boxing history.

By Nat Loubet

(*The Ring*, January 1975)

Muhammad Ali became the second man in ring history to regain the heavyweight championship of the world. The first was Floyd Patterson, who took his title back from Ingemar Johansson in 1960.

The clock reached 2:58 of the eighth round when a crashing left hook followed by a solid right cross dumped George Foreman to the canvas where he lay on his stomach. As the count reached four, he rolled over and began a slow rise to his feet. He looked toward Dick Sadler in his corner, got to one knee, and, as the 10-count was made by referee Zack Clayton, Foreman made an effort to beat the final second. He just lost out, and so the title changed hands, and once again Ali stands on the throne he boasted to all who would listen that he would occupy after the fight.



A typical scene from the fight: Foreman working the body, while Ali tries to tie the champ up and smother his blows. In the early going, it appeared to most as if the heavily favored Foreman was winning the bout and would eventually knock out Ali.

Clayton was the first black man to referee a world heavyweight championship fight. His first active refereeing job was the second Walcott-Charles meeting, on June 5, 1952. This was Clayton's third time acting as an arbiter in a world heavyweight title contest. Clayton added to his status as a referee in as much as some scribes felt Zack might be swayed emotionally to one side or the other. This he emphatically did not do and provided one of the better refereeing jobs accomplished by any third man in a world title fight.

The bout could have been a hard one to referee since from the opening bell it was a "Holy War" with Foreman the aggressor, jumping out to meet Ali in the challenger's own corner.

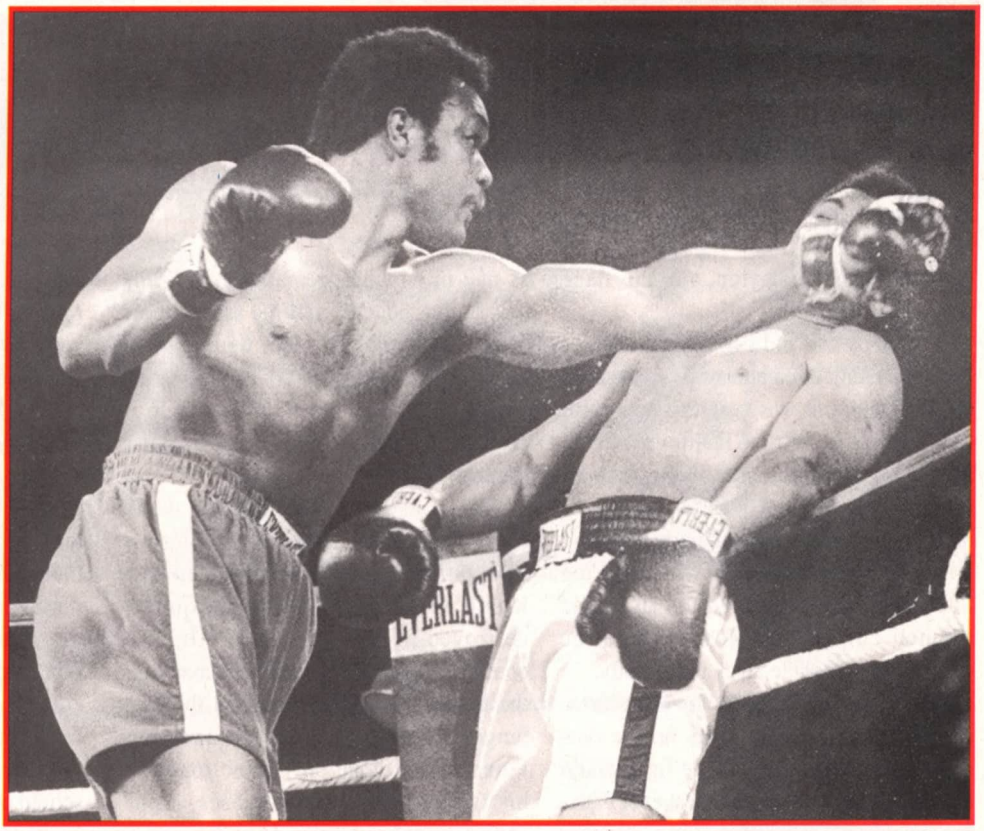
The round-by-round happenings followed a pattern. Ali would meet the on-charging Foreman with flicking lefts, many of which missed, until Foreman, as had been expected, broke through Ali's guard, bending the challenger back across the ropes, landing solid, punishing bodyblows that landed on Ali's rib cage with maddening regularity.

Weight didn't play much of a part in the proceedings. Ali, at 216½, a good weight for him, was in better shape than he has been since he came back to boxing in 1970. Foreman, who by his own statement in a press conference here weighed 250 pounds in August, tipped the scales at 220, a good fighting weight for the champion.

Immediately before the contest, various sections of the crowd took up the chant that blended into a symphony of several phrases, overpowering to the point where one's hair began to prickle, "Alibomaye."

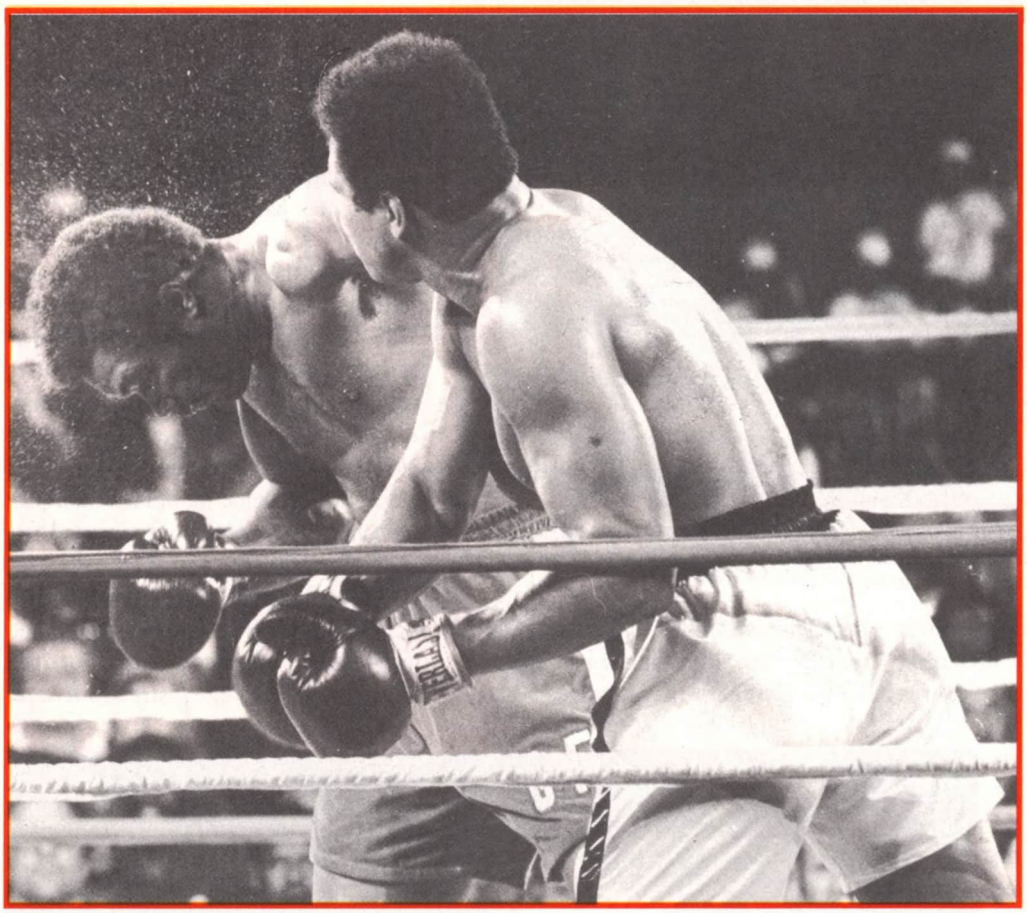
Ali was the country's hero. Ask any "citizen." He will respond immediately, "Ali—my man." Very few dissident voices were heard and practically all were ready to accept Foreman were he to win. A fanfare of music indigenous to Africa, including the Zaire national anthem, heralded the entrance of Muhammad Ali, right hand extended above his head. He led his own cheer.

After what seemed like an interminable wait came another fanfare and more cheers, with the Ali and Foreman partisans competing. Instructions were



As Ali played rope-a-dope, Foreman swung with wild, looping shots, and round after round of heaving those sort of punches wore the mighty Texan down. Foreman, whose previous eight fights had all been over in just two rounds or less, was ill-prepared for a lengthy battle.

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED



Ali follows through with a crushing right hand as the end nears in round eight. With Foreman totally spent, his advantages in youth, size, and power suddenly became irrelevant.

given by referee Clayton, and the stage was set.

In rounds one and two, this writer had Foreman eking out a narrow advantage. In the first round, it was very fast action for heavyweights, with Ali attempting to slide away from Foreman as the champion took repeated left jabs to the face in order to get inside the twisting, sliding Ali, who speared George with smoking left jabs, but rarely used his right and seemed content to allow George the opportunity to whale away to his body.

Most of the writers in Kinshasa, regardless of their thoughts on the outcome of the bout, felt that the fight would be a case of Ali, up on his toes, ever dancing away, sticking and moving, stinging like a bee, and running like a gazelle.

On the other hand, the fight shaped up as one in which Foreman would be the devastating puncher and the scales of age might well decide the winner with Foreman at age 26 and Ali at 32, and Ali having a 1½-inch reach advantage to be contended with. The odds ended up 3-1 in Foreman's favor.

The consensus was that Ali would slow down after five rounds or so of bodypunching by Foreman and then would be caught up with and quickly destroyed. It was felt that if Ali could continue to stay away from Foreman, then the longer the fight progressed the challenger would be gaining ground since Foreman had gone only three rounds in his two previous title defenses, a one-round knockout over Jose Roman in Tokyo in 1973 and his two-round icing of Ken Norton in Caracas earlier this year.

Angelo Dundee had confided to a few that his plan was not to have Ali run, but to have him use the ropes, slide along them, moving just enough to avoid taking too much punishment, allowing Foreman to tire himself out.

The obvious danger to such a plan was that Foreman would use the good left jab that he exhibited in training and then pin Ali, not allowing the sliding movement until Muhammad was blasted out of the 20th of May Stadium that holds about 80,000 when sandwiched in like the New York subway at rush hour.

This night all the seats were occupied, except the $180 ringside seats that were located in the grandstand. There were about 62,000 hardy souls who paid to see the fight. They had erected an 80-foot roof to house us and television in case of rain. It was good they did have this foresight because the rain came down in sheets at one brief period during the night. Those fans in the stands seemed to take it with good humor.

The Dundee plan almost backfired, as it looked bad for Ali in those first two rounds. However, in the third session, Foreman leaped across the 19-foot ring, only to meet an Ali throwing leather as though his life depended upon it.

Foreman, for one of the few times in the contest, used his left jab, but was outpunched two-to-one as Ali moved from side to side. Foreman worked on Ali's body, then changed direction, banging to Ali's head, but it was the challenger who scored more efficiently in this round.

Both fighters had words to say. Foreman was on the receiving end of Ali's sharp tongue. "Come on, boy, show

me something." Foreman returned the taunt through a face that was beginning to swell on the left cheekbone. He had an abrasion on his forehead, and eyes that already had a tired look in them.

Ali's left jabs were his margin, and the fight was becoming a closer affair.

In the later rounds and right up to the knockout, Ali's cornermen, Drew "Bundini" Brown, Dundee, and, at ringside, Ali's own brother, were not as confident of victory as they later maintained in the dressing room after the fight. Ali's brother was calling Foreman an amateur and beseeching his brother to outbox George and "knock him out, show him who's boss, box him, get going."

Dundee seemed perturbed and disgusted by the turn of events, which to most at ringside looked as though both men were getting tired. Despite showboating to indicate that he was in no danger, Ali seemed in very real danger of losing the bout due to Foreman's devastating bodypunching.

As later events indicated, it was Foreman who was apparently the more tired. He lost steam in his punches and became an open target in the eighth round, a turn of events that spewed forth a flurry of Ali punches that decided the situation, ending all speculation.

This fight was a slugfest, a real pier-six bangaroo, and one of the better heavyweight title fights from the standpoint of action.

As the fight went into the deciding eighth round, this writer had the score in rounds four to three in favor of Foreman. This is now academic since the knockout was the convincer and erased any doubt as to the winner.

After the fight at which some 200-plus scribes from all over the world gathered, Foreman stated, "Did I tire? I was never tired." To these eyes, he did look tired. Foreman, however, showed that he had class in his immediate postfight remarks to the scribes.

"Ali is a fine gentleman, he loves his children, wife, and country. He has a great love for his people and a desire to help them. Ali is responsible for bridging the black man from America to Africa. This is a bridge that will never be broken."

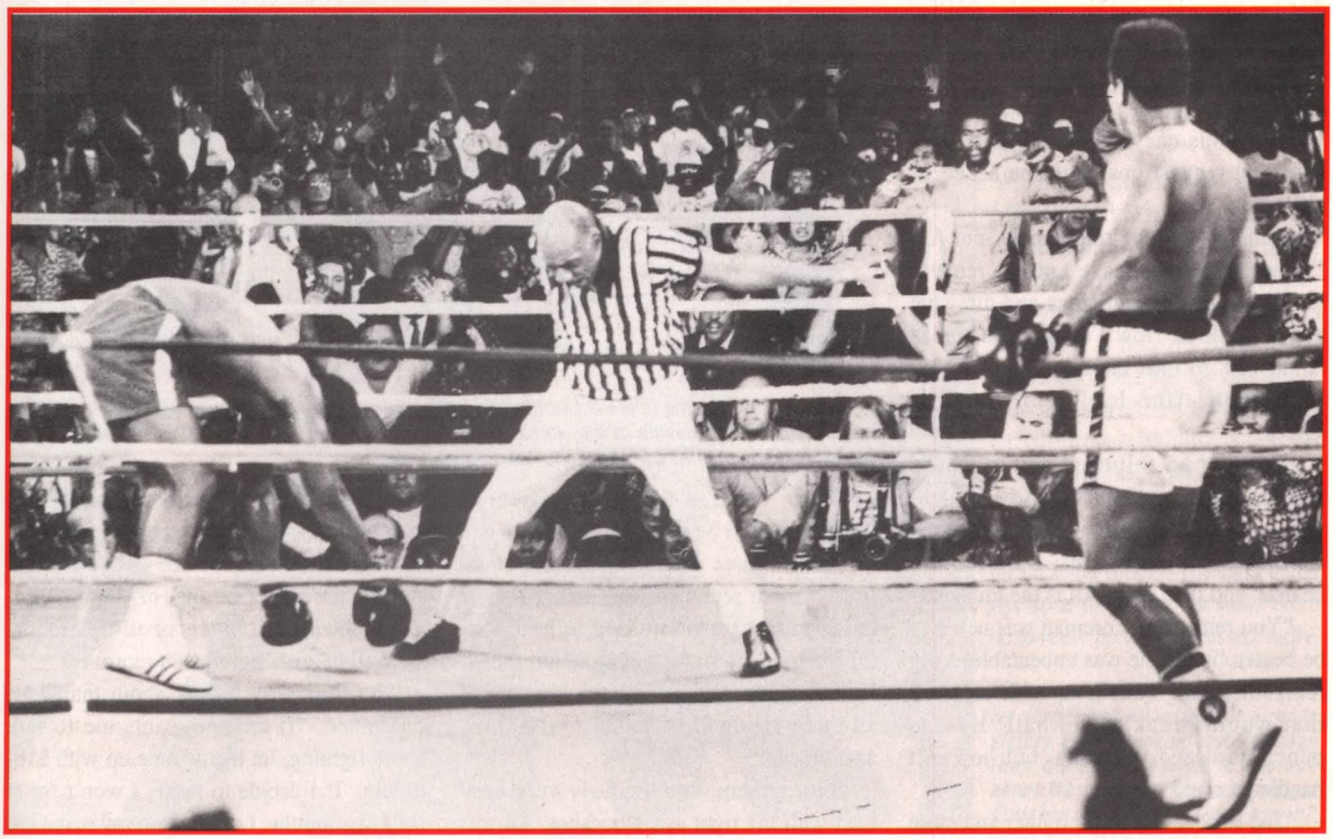
Stretched on the rubbing table, tired, with his face swollen, the ex-champion answered questions tossed at him and waxed philosophical.

"I will stay in Africa and travel for some time. I would like to strengthen the bridge of blacks. I love America and I think blacks and whites must come together. My mother and father had their origins here and I would like to see them come back some time."

A writer asked Foreman if he would fight Ali the same way if he had another opportunity.

"For the first time I felt secure in a fight and I felt I was winning right up to the end. I followed Dick's [Sadler, his trainer] instructions, but next time I will follow them, if there is a next time, even more closely. Ali won the fight, and I have no beefs. A champion should never alibi. I lost the fight, but I don't feel I was beaten. Yes, I would like another chance at Ali. That's up to him. I think he has said some bad things about me but, basically, I do not have anything against him."

Asked the usual question as to how he felt about losing the fight, George gave us his peculiar smile that denotes patience. "How do I feel about losing? No loser



Ref Zack Clayton waves his arms to signal that Foreman has failed to beat the count, setting off a celebration amongst the many Ali fans in the crowd at 20th of May Stadium. The end came officially at 2:58 of the eighth round.

feels good, but I know I did my best."

Of course, as the drum thumps prepare the way for a return engagement, many weird statements will be used for publicity purposes.

The usually loquacious Ali sat in his dressing room, which was the scene of pandemonium such as I have never witnessed before at any fight. Not only inside the room were photographers fighting reporters for the space close to the champ, but in the hall was a long stream of people, some having no connection with boxing but wanting to catch a glimpse of their hero or possibly touch him. Never has a fighter had a more partisan following than Ali in Zaire. That he is the hero of his people there is no doubt. Even when losing, in those rounds when things looked bleak, his people chanted for him and they were the greater number in the arena.

"Ali—kill him, Ali—kill him!" There seemed no doubt that he would do just that for his pride, for his people, and for money. Ali did just that. He ended the life of Foreman, for the time being, as a champion.

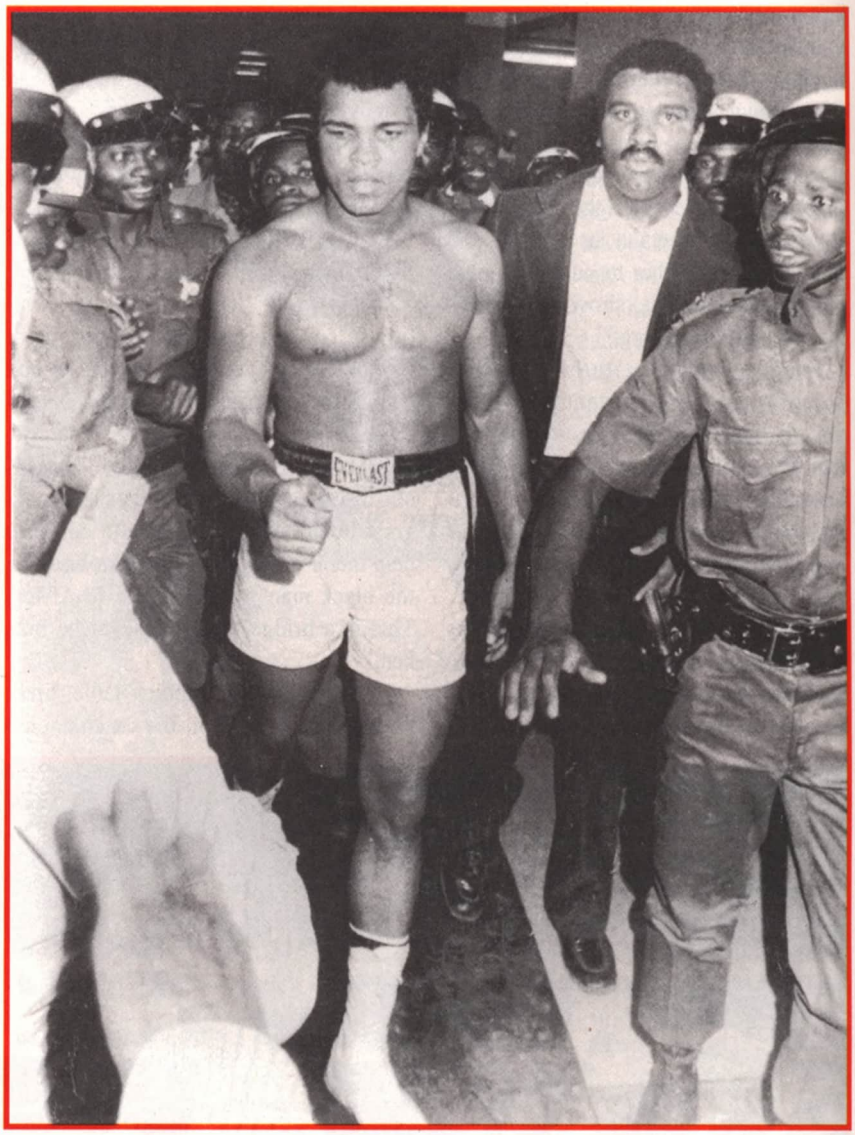
Facing his questioners, Ali took over before any questions could be asked of him.

"Allah was in the ring tonight, not Ali. I'm not supposed to have a punch, remember? Allah was in that arena and did what had to be done. Now I'm going to spread Allah—to go into the ministry if Elijah Muhammad (the leader of his cult) agrees."

Asked if he followed any plan, the new champion replied: "I did what I said I would do. I jabbed him in the corners and let him tire himself out. I waited my chance, and then *pow!* Ali is the greatest!

"You remember Foreman was never to be beaten by me, he was unbeatable, a big fearsome, dangerous man with a punch that would break me in half. He can punch hard and is strong, but he can't handle jabs and speed.

"Joe Frazier is a better fighter and more dangerous. In close, Frazier really can hurt a man. In close, George doesn't know what to do. If you can move, then George doesn't seem to be able to hit hard."



A triumphant Ali returns to his dressing room having become only the second fighter to regain the heavyweight championship of the world. Ali said afterward that if he decided to retire, he would wait at least six months before making the announcement.

As Ali came into the dressing room from a more secluded back room, few of those present were surprised to hear boxing's super salesman ask those present if Foreman was still one of the greatest of all-time. The brothers all answered "no!" as if on cue.

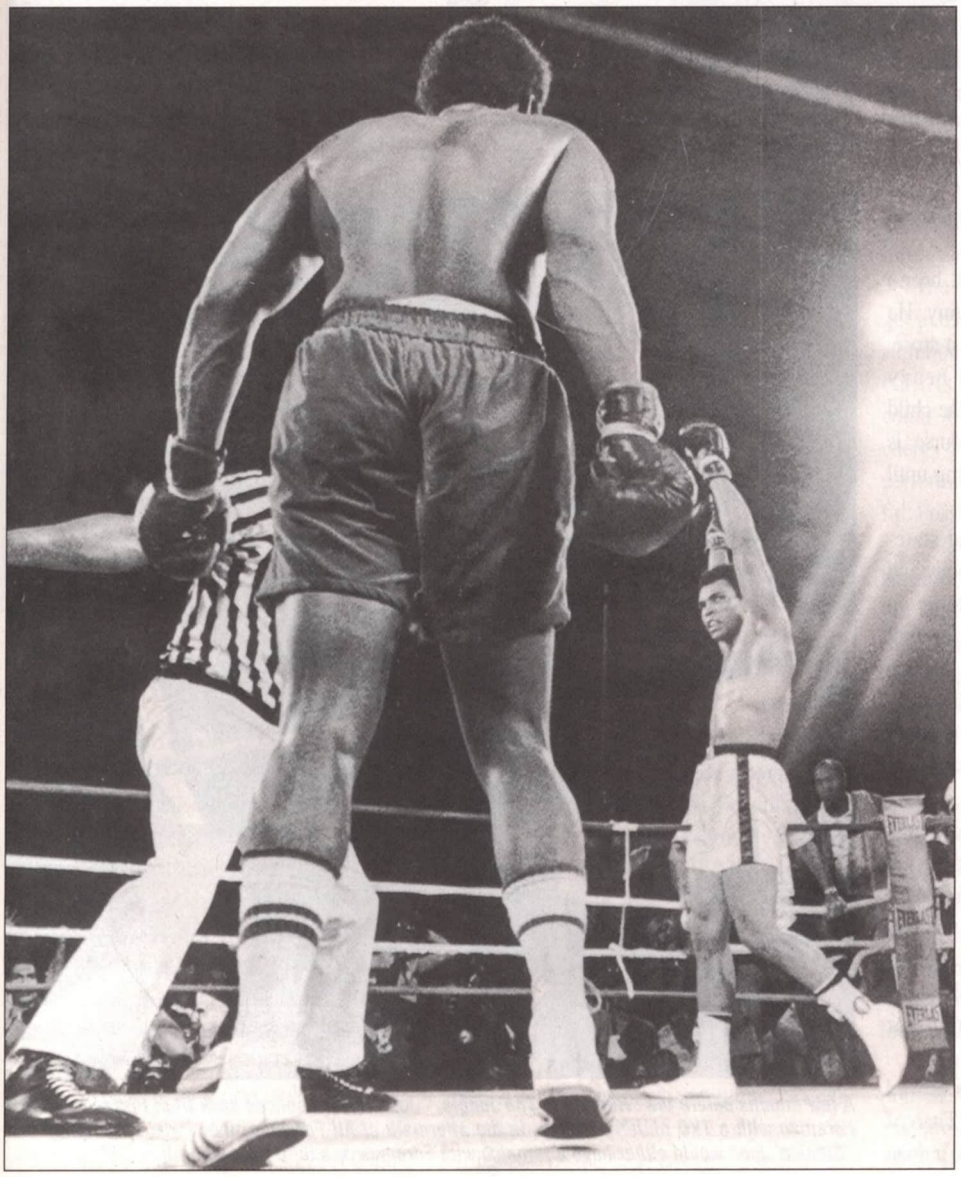
Sitting there, an obviously very tired man with his right eye bloodshot, Ali was otherwise unmarked in contrast with the punch-marked face of the ex-champion. He never lost his sense of humor as he referred to his standing as compared to Foreman.

"Foreman will now be called a bum, he will no longer be one of the greatest, one of the hardest hitters of all-times."

Will he give Foreman a return fight?

"It's too early to talk about that," Ali continued. "If anyone wants me to talk about fighting, let them come up with $10-million. If I decide to retire, I won't for at least six months. I don't want my name out of THE RING magazine as the champion. I want to enjoy it for a while." ■

FOREMAN'S KO BY ALI LEAVES HEAVIES WITHOUT TITANIC PUNCHING HERO



By Dan Daniels

(*The Ring*, January 1975)

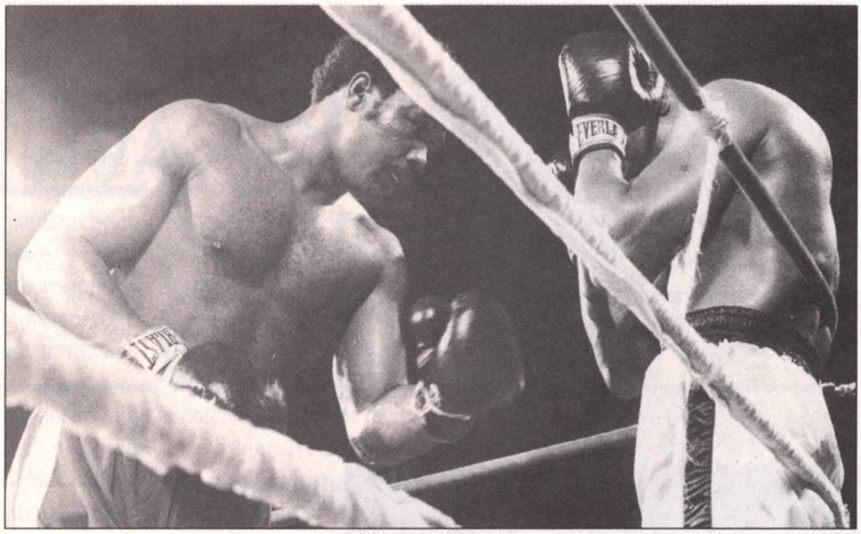
There is no Titan left among the heavyweight fighters of the world. The effigy of George Foreman as the Superman of the ring lay shattered among the rubble of the destroyed statues of Livingston and Stanley, representing white domination, down in the distant Congo.

The knockout of Foreman by Muhammad Ali at 2:58 of the eighth round in Zaire, in the approaching dawn, left a millionaire without employment. There is no talk of a return match. What happened in the soccer stadium at Kinshasa precluded another meeting of Foreman and Ali.

At ringside before the opening gong, Ali said that if he won the title back he would turn it in. And turn it in he should. The fight game has done its utmost for him. Were he to retire he will be missed badly,

No sooner had Ali raised his arms in victory after knocking out Foreman than questions began to surface about the future of the heavyweight division: Would Ali fight again? What was next for Foreman? Were there any big punchers left among the top contenders?

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED



Ali covers up as Foreman pins him on the ropes. A lot of people wondered if Ali's rope-a-dope strategy was planned ahead of time or something he came up with in the spur of the moment after the fight started. Writer Dan Daniels tended to believe the latter theory.

and that they have their ups and downs. What happened to Sonny Liston against Ali is a striking example. That was the same Liston who had knocked out Floyd Patterson twice, on each occasion in the first round.

As things shape up, granted that Ali will ignore his plan to retire, we have him, Frazier, and Foreman under consideration. This listing is made on the permissible assumption that Frazier is better than Oscar Bonavena.

That Joe Bugner or Ron Lyle will make it is open to doubt. Bugner is too erratic and not a hard hitter, and Lyle is 32 years of age and not experienced in fast company. On results obtained to date, the Bobick brothers still are far off in the distance.

What is there for Foreman to do now?

He beat Frazier in less than six minutes.

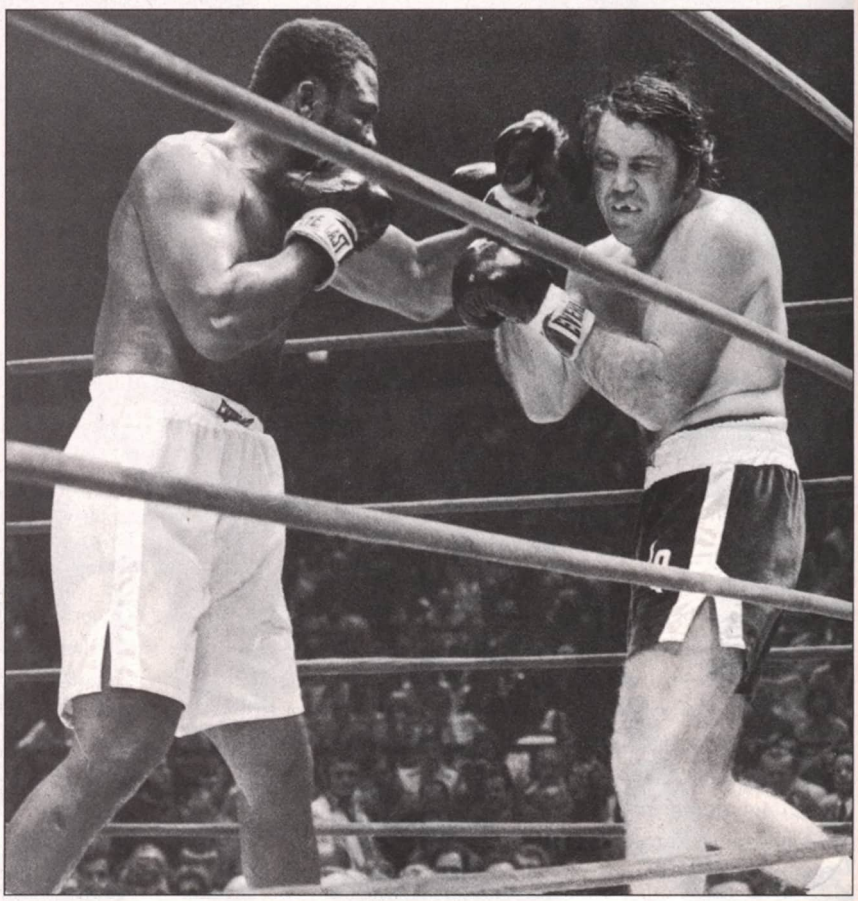
until, as has been the habit of the ring, some new phenomenon comes to the fore.

But the fact remains, there will be no other Ali. Truly he is a Man of Destiny. He got the break of every contingency that arose. From the day he won the light heavy Olympic title at Rome, he has been the child of Good Fortune. The question, of course, is whether he will retire or go on fighting until he wears out utterly.

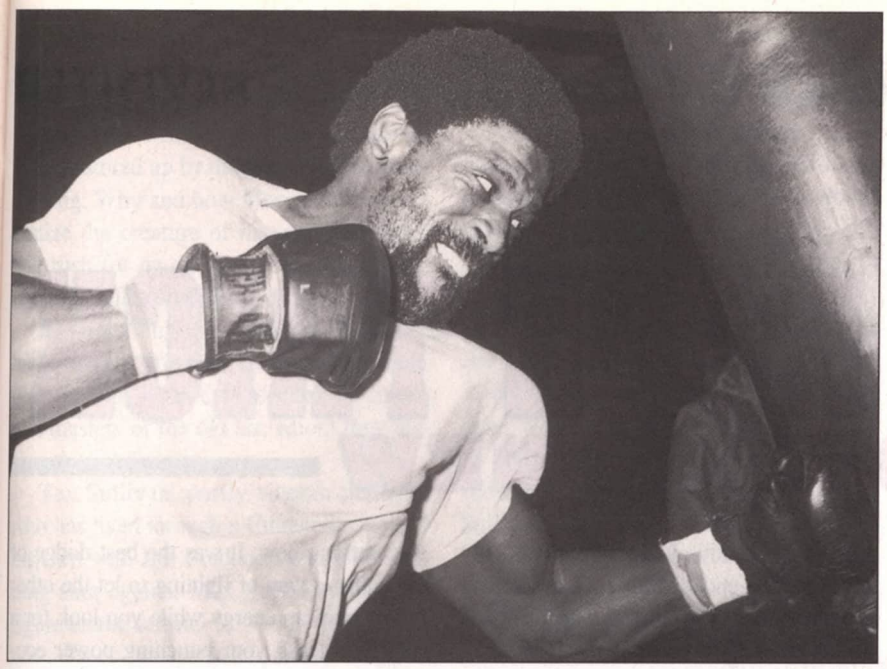
Total reliance on a Muhammad statement is not safe. He is a man of moods and changing intentions. If Ali decides to go on with his ring career it is likely that he will fight Joe Frazier for the third time in New York. Joe appears to be happy, well-conditioned, buoyant, and, of course, he is eager to make up for his two-round knockout at Jamaica by Foreman.

It is safe to say that it will be some time before Foreman recovers from the mental and physical setback he suffered at Zaire. But the fallen champion is not in need of commiseration. No longer is he in deploring financial need. He got $5-million in Zaire, and that should pay the rent for some time to come.

The defeat of Foreman once again proved how unsafe it is to count on the ring Titan of his time. It seems that fighters, too, are human



A few months before the "Rumble In The Jungle," Joe Frazier bounced back from losses to Ali and Foreman with a TKO of Jerry Quarry. In the aftermath of Ali-Foreman, there was speculation that "Smokin' Joe" would either have a rematch with Foreman or a third fight with Ali.



While analyzing the post-Rumble heavyweight division, Daniels pretty much dismissed Ron Lyle (top) and Oscar Bonavena, who is seen looking at a photo of his first fight with Frazier, in which he twice floored the Philly slugger before losing a close decision.

He stopped Ken Norton in two rounds. The fight public would look askance at another Ali match. Does this former Goliath have to stand the disapproval of the crowd? We can't lose him, because the field is so skimpy. But whom does he fight now?

Zaire is out of the picture for another heavyweight match. It had its big day and big night and now the need for expensive advertising is over with. It appears safe that there will not be another financial extravaganza by the Zaire River, hitherto the Congo.

If Ali is not to be considered, there will be talk of Foreman's fighting Frazier again. This conceivably would be another type of Frazier. He was at the Zaire ringside and must have wondered how Foreman had stopped him in Jamaica. The greatly reduced Foreman might have trouble with Frazier in another meeting.

All of which brings us back to the Foreman defeat by Ali. This writer was not at Zaire. He saw the fight as it appeared on the screen.

There have been all sorts of excuses about Ali's strategy. To begin with, Foreman was the most stupid defender of the title in the history of the heavyweight class. When he had Ali in the corner, and that was most of the time, he leaned into him and did not stand off and give his all in punches that found their marks. That Foreman had not responded to training became evident as early as the fourth round.

The seers of the ring, gazing into their crystal ball, decided that Ali's strategy was planned, and they ascribe to Angie Dundee Machiavellian craft and foresight of incredible power. The seers believe that Ali chose to take a beating, round after round, to fight off the ropes or dodge into a neutral corner, knowing all the time that at 2:58, with only two seconds left in the eighth round, Ali would unleash a combination and a kayo right.

This writer did not give Ali very many rounds up until the end. There were some few elements in the fight that reminded this reporter of Joe Louis turning on Billy Conn and Rocky Marciano suddenly wiping out his points deficit and stopping Jersey Joe Walcott. However, barring a prefight scheme by Ali and Dundee to wear Foreman down, it is conceivable that as Foreman's punch waned and his nervous tension increased, the Ali corner decided to outwear him. And outwear him Ali did.

The wonder was that after the beating Ali got in the first half of the fight, he was able to summon enough strength to knock his man out. As for a preconceived notion that Ali could wear his man down by conserving his energy and eliminating his customary ballet performance, well, that has to be rated doubtful. Possible but doubtful.

In any event, the story of this fight is perhaps the most amazing in the history of the heavyweight title, more amazing even than the strange tale of the Ali-Liston "fight" in Lewiston, Maine.

Just how the $11-million venture of the Video Technique promotion fared in the closed circuit theatre showing in the United States is not yet known. The promoters say it was a financial triumph, but even they do not know, as yet, how the balance sheet stands.

The screening of the fight was excellent. Perhaps not the best on record, but as good as expected. As indicated by the showing of numerous vacant seats, the fight hardly was a local financial success.

With the fight out of the way, Ali be praised. But as 1975 looms in the not so distant future, let us face it: There is no Titan left in the heavyweight ranks. ■

ALI'S ROPE TRICK
NOTHING NEW

By Lester Bromberg

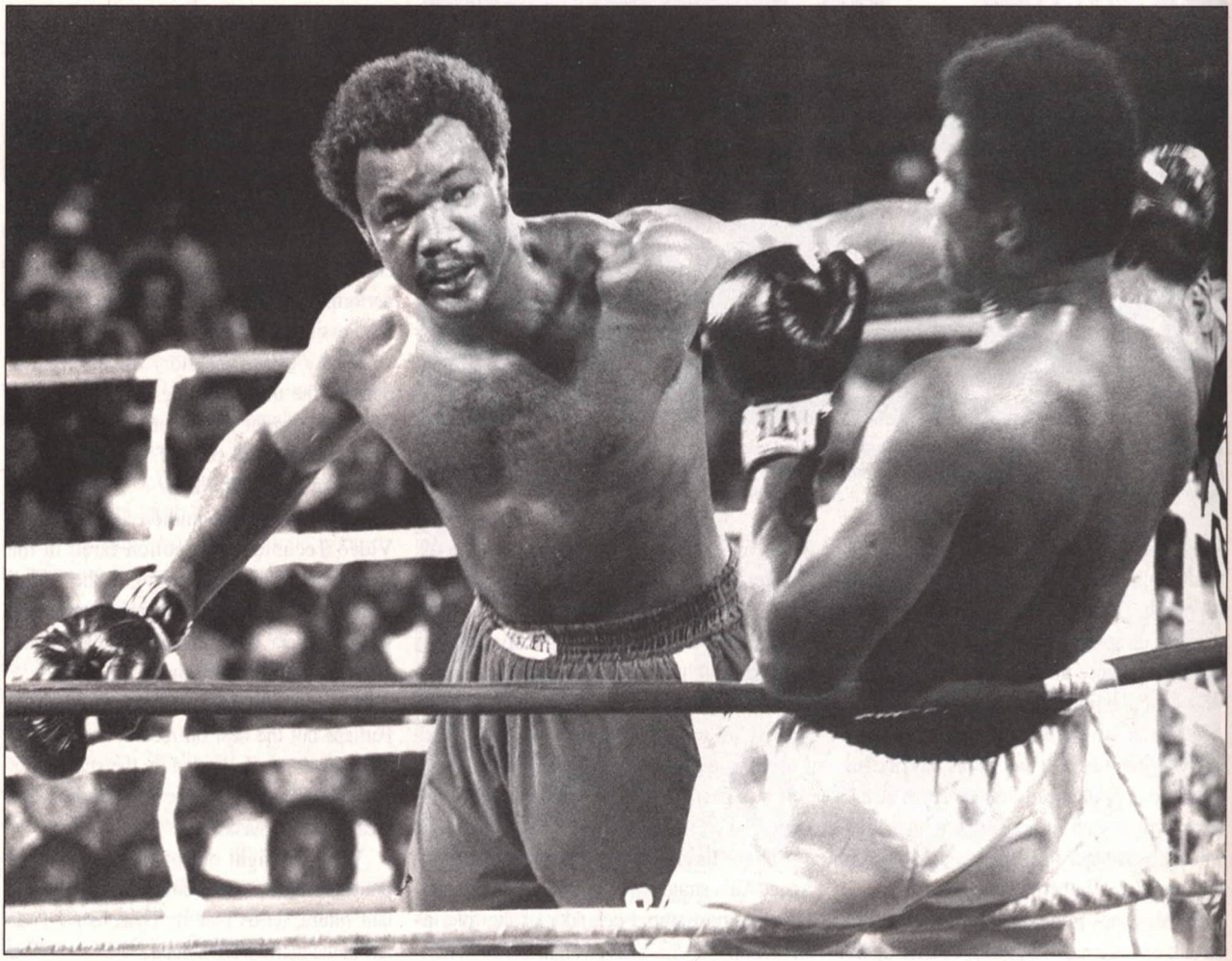
(*The Ring*, February 1975)

Overnight Muhammad Ali sprang a rope trick as baffling as any ever sprung by an Indian fakir. And George Foreman, trapped as anybody transfixed by the whine of the pipes and the stare of the beady-eyed snake, eventually fell over. The end was his rude awakening as former heavyweight champion—and Ali's song of joy at paradise regained.

The name of the game was rope-fighting. To Ali, it was a new gimmick, born of the ingenuity of his 32 years of age and 14 years in the ring.

To students of ye olde art of the fistic, it was nothing new. It was the best dodge of the game, a way of fighting to let the other fellow burn up energy while you look for a spot to unleash your punching power economically.

The cream of the jest was the fact that Ali really didn't have to look very far. It didn't go out of the Foreman corner. He merely imitated "The Old Mongoose," bet-



ter known as Archie Moore. Yes, rope-fighting and elbow-fighting were the mark of the old light heavyweight champion. Literally, this was one trick out of a mighty volume stored up by the gray, old Merlin of the ring. Why and how Moore did not recognize the creature of his own making—and rush for an antidote—no one has yet learned. It may cost him his job.

Closed-circuit television watchers saw the danger to Foreman rather quickly. And they called it. Then they recalled the countless masters of the old art, whom they had seen time and again.

Tex Sullivan, portly veteran publicist who has lived through a Cinderella story of his own with Jim Braddock as a 10-1 winning shot against Max Baer, saw another figure on the screen.

He saw one of his former fighters, Lee Oma, pulling skillfully adroit antics of his own.

"Oma used to get his mail on the ropes," chuckled Sullivan. "He had to, he generally wasn't in shape to move around the ring."

Don't misunderstand. Lee Oma, or Frank Cajewski, his real name, was a fairly trim heavyweight with a handsome profile and a pompadour shock of jet-black hair. And Oma had his way of fighting on a dime, with three cents change.

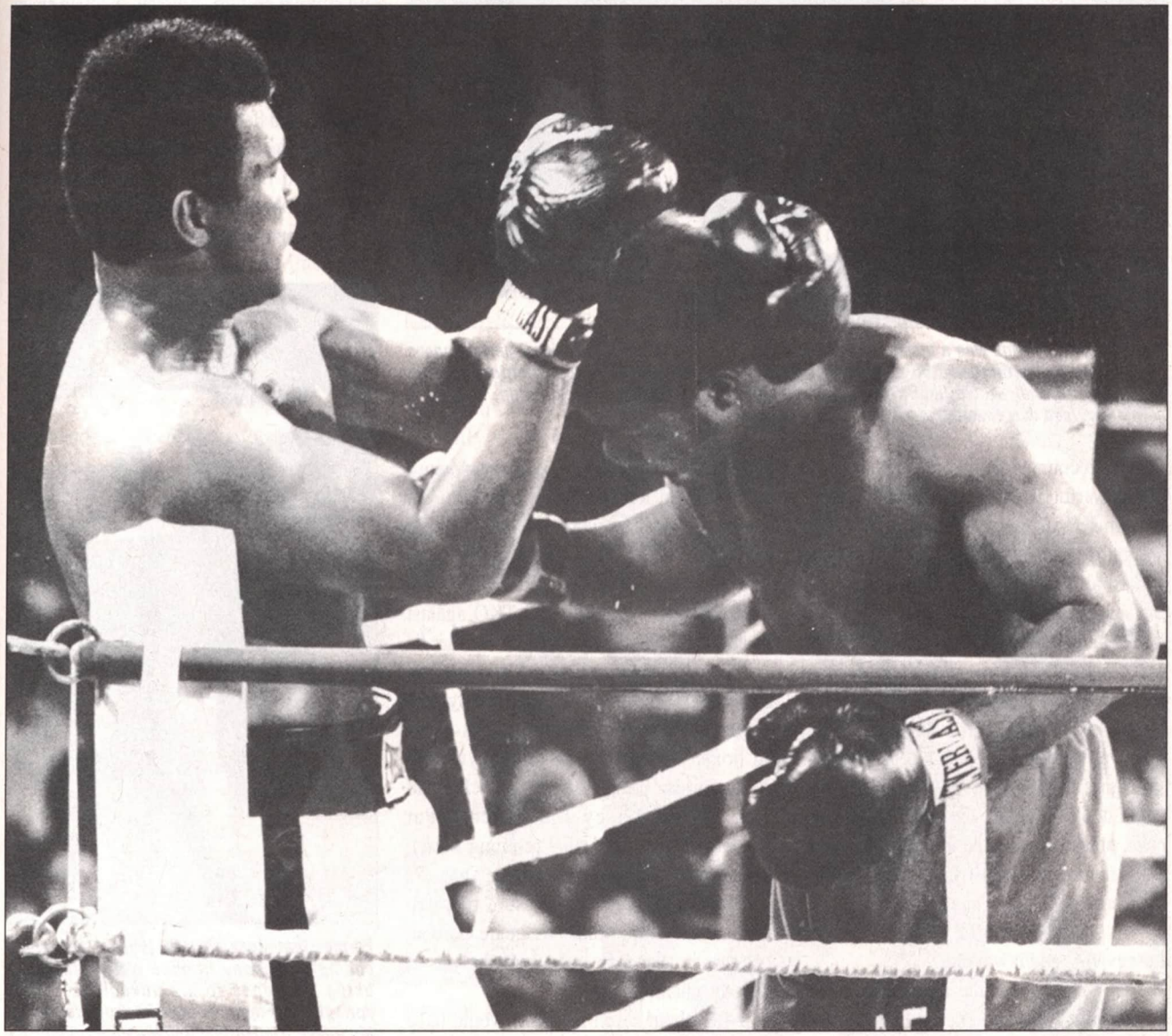
Some of the old-time fans called Oma a clown. "They were just jealous," said Sullivan. "Lee knew what he was doing." He was tall and he leaned back against the ropes. Sometimes he went halfway outside. He kept sure of only one thing: They never were in position to reach him solidly.

He kept a sharp eye as to what was going on. He looked like a sparrow, pecking and watching one step ahead as the lunging, somewhat confused opponent tried to get at him.

Then soon as the other guy relaxed, Oma would begin punching. He might start with a left poking the other guy, and suddenly he would break loose with a stinging right hand. And, by the time Mr. Opponent would be adjusted, Oma would reach out and clutch him with a tough, hard clutch. Oma would turn away by this time so that there would be only a quarter of his face to hit against, if that.

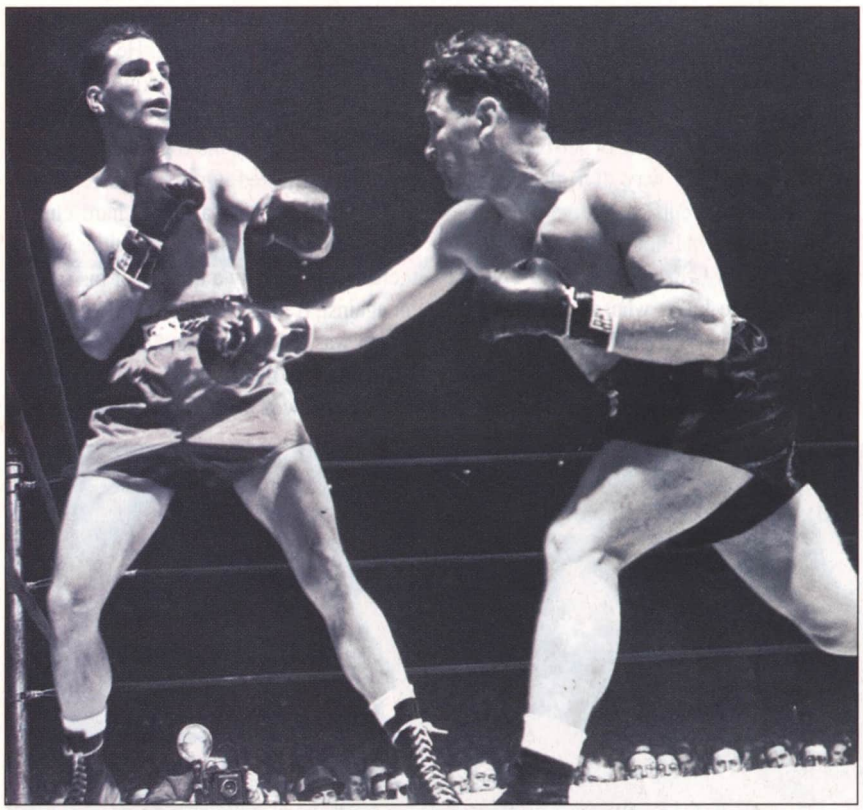
He was always winning fights when he figured to lose them.

"There was one night against Joe



Many gave Ali credit for conceiving the rope-a-dope strategy (opposite page and above) that led him to victory over Foreman, but really it was just a variation on techniques used by others in the past. If others invented it, however, you could say Ali perfected it.

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED



Heavyweight Lee Oma was a master of fighting off the ropes, and one of his finest performances came when he dominated Gus Lesnevich by befuddling him with his rope-fighting routine (pictured). In a subsequent fight, Oma nearly claimed the heavyweight championship, building a substantial lead over Ezzard Charles before losing by kayo.

Baksi," recounted Sullivan. "Baksi was a big, powerful guy they kept calling a modern Jim Jeffries. Oma surprised us by coming in in shape. He darted this way and that and finally settled down in the corners. Baksi never found him."

Possibly the best night Oma ever had was against Gus Lesnevich, then the light heavyweight champion.

"Funny thing," Sullivan said, "Oma didn't go to fights, he was too busy dating showgirls, beautiful, good-looking dames. And I don't think he ever looked at a sports page, unless it had Oma in big letters on it. As a result, he didn't know one fighter from another."

He started the old routine against Lesnevich—and it worked.

"He came back to the corner and he was screaming. He was yelling, 'Why didn't you let me in on this?'

"It was the same the next round. He was hollering, 'You burglars, you got down a good bet and left me out in the cold.' He was so steamed he worked harder than he usually did with his left. He cut up Gus and stopped him in the sixth round.

"It was probably the only TKO against Lesnevich until he lost to Ezzard Charles."

That last statement isn't true, but Sullivan's mention of Charles was typical of Oma ... Charles was a lithe, quick-handed boxer who had become heavyweight champion by beating everybody. He had won against Jersey Joe Walcott, Pat Valentino, and Joe Louis (coming back), among others, and then he took on Oma.

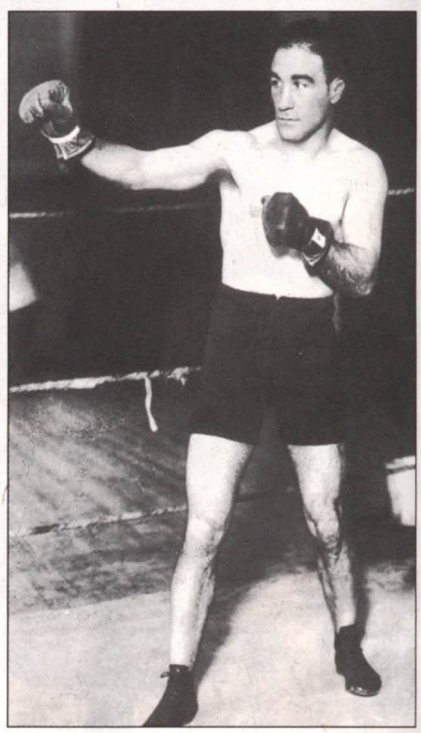
This writer had the pleasure to catch this one at the old Madison Square Garden. Lee was in shape. Even he knew he was in with the champion.

After about seven rounds it would have to be scored five rounds Oma, two rounds Charles. Lee twisted, turned, he showed him his long arms, and he let Charles drag him off the ropes when he got into a clinch. He made a joke of the champion.

Oma won three or four more rounds. Now it was serious. He had a substantial lead and he had five rounds to the end of the 15 rounds. In the press rows, the writers were beginning to talk upset.

Then in the 10th round, like clockwork, Oma started to run down. He began wobbling. Why, I'll never know. He couldn't have been hurt. Up till then, Charles hadn't laid a glove on him. Anyway, he was down two or three times like a dying swan. It was all over. He got up and shook himself like a wet dog that had finished with a bath. No pun intended here.

There was another side to the picture. Oma owed the IRS a load of money. He had never bothered paying current taxes. And the men with the whiskers brought in



Former featherweight and junior lightweight champion Johnny Dundee was brilliant at using the ropes to his advantage, often springing off them in unusual ways to set up his attack. Unlike Ali, Dundee didn't linger on the ropes for long stretches, preferring to touch them briefly, then bound off.

the plasters right in the dressing room while he was putting on the gloves. He could see he would be fighting for nothing. So there he was, Lee Oma with the pompadour hair. He was going to show Ezzard Charles how he could fight and then when he was in danger of taking a licking, good night, boys, he was going home.

Actually, the business of rope-fighting went further back than Oma. I recall hearing about Johnny Dundee and his art of using the ropes. He would use its spring to bounce him with surprising speed—and into surprising places.

Where Dundee got it, nobody knew. Certainly, Scotty Montieth, who managed him and who nicknamed him "The Scotch Wop," certainly did not teach him. It was just a natural move, because he had fast legs.

But fundamentally, he had only a third of the stratagem. He would retreat spectacularly to the ropes, stay there briefly and up, up, and away, he would bounce somewhere else. He didn't elbow-guard himself against punches there, he didn't counterpunch from there.

Yet he didn't pay the price for lingering on the ropes, despite popular belief that he once got himself knocked out there. The old matchmaker from two diverse places, Ridgewood Grove and the Garden, Johnny Attell often told this story.

"I was in Philadelphia, it was in 1917," Attell reported, "Willie Jackson was fighting Dundee. 'Speedy Oscar' (Jackson's real name was Oscar Tobler) was scared of what Dundee would do and right away Dundee backed him to the ropes. Dundee started a left hook and, in desperation, Jackson threw a right. Jackson wasn't any more of a puncher than Dundee, but he must have landed in the right spot. Dundee wobbled, but he held on.

"Doc Bagley (he was in Jackson's corner) could see Dundee's eyes rolling and yelled to Jackson, 'Pull away, pull away.' When Willie finally got free, Dundee fell back and his chin caught on the lowest rope and he hung that way while he was counted out."

It was a freak. They fought nine times after that and Jackson never came close to flooring Dundee again.

As often happened, a ring mannerism was imitated. Bushy Graham, later the New York-recognized bantam champion, copied Dundee's springboard leaping. Other young hopefuls aped the Dundee trick.

But the purest skill of them all was Lou Ambers'. I saw him come up and saw him fade. He was a lightweight champion in an era of giants. Tony Canzoneri and Henry Armstrong were in his league. The distinguishing mark was his style. Up against the ropes, he rushed to stay there and to fight there. He didn't have power, but he had guts to an inordinate degree and went far with his only weapon, a short left hook, really an uppercut.

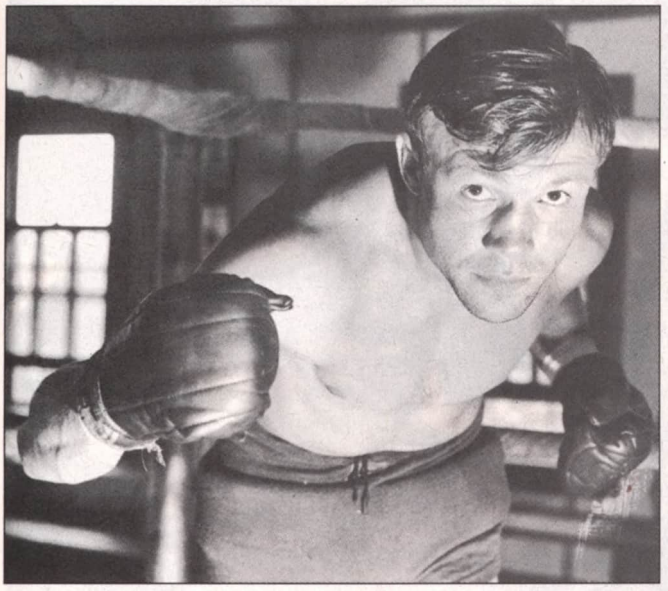
The memory that has to stand out is the recollection of his two fights with Armstrong, the legendary "Hammerin' Hank," who held three titles at one time: featherweight, welterweight, and lightweight, in that order.

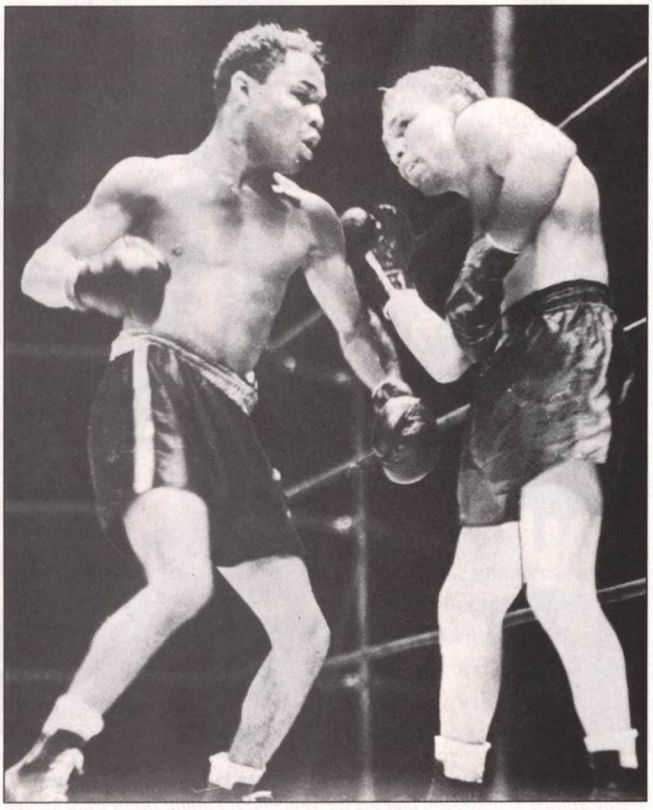
You must remember Armstrong was an irresistible force. Game little Ambers had to supply the immovable object. Backed to the ropes, Lou kept a jiggling, bouncing pace against inhuman pressure. Ambers provided tempo for 15 rounds with Armstrong in their first fight, but Henry had the power and won it.

They used to say that Ambers had the gamest manager in the world, Al Weill, but as Al said, "he's got the style, I've got the figuration all figured out, I've got a return" for next outdoor season. And Ambers was there, against the searing, burning ropes and against Armstrong.

Again they went 15 rounds down to the wire. It is memorable that the referee, Arthur Donovan, took five rounds away from Henry for low punching, etc., and enabled Ambers to jiggle and hop his way to the title again.

The rope trick had paid off. With variations, it's back again. And it's in good hands, too. Muhammad Ali will nurture it. ■





Few fighters in history spent more time on the ropes than Lou Ambers. The two-time lightweight champ famously split a pair of fights with the legendary Henry Armstrong (right) in the late-1930s, keeping pace with Armstrong while backed to the ropes.

WILL ALI FIGHT AGAIN?

By Dan Shocket

(*World Boxing*, March 1975)

Is there is a man among us who would retire from boxing if a check for $10-million dangled before us? If there exists such a man, his name is not Muhammad Ali.

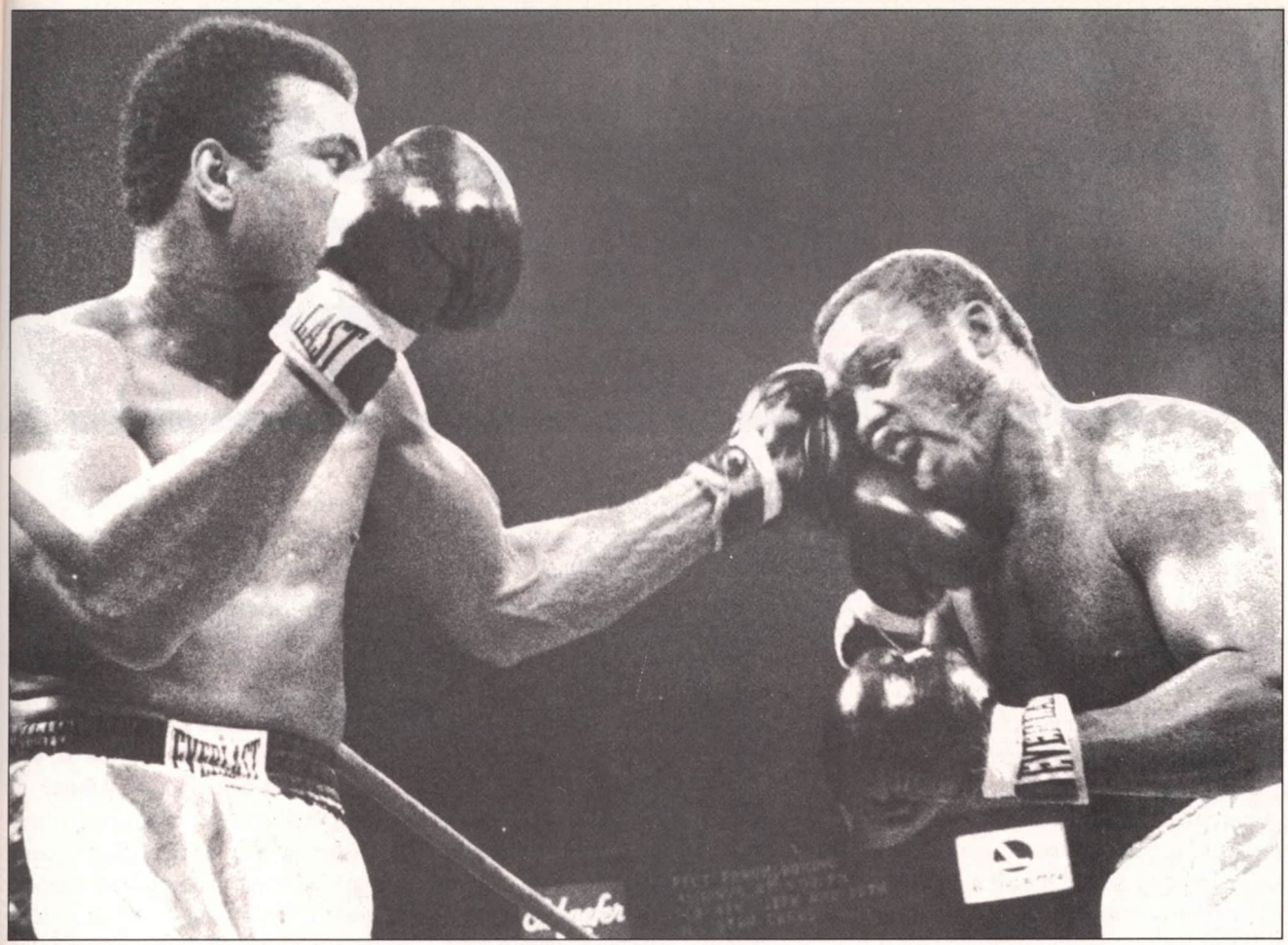
Before defeating George Foreman and regaining the heavyweight championship, Muhammad Ali talked seriously of retiring from boxing. Whether this was a ploy to bring people to the fight for the chance of seeing Muhammad Ali in his last professional bout, or whether the 32-year-old athlete really wanted to leave the wars is a matter of speculation. Circumstances have made all previous statements inoperative.

Ali's earning potential is unlimited. A rubber match against Joe Frazier, especially after Ali's championship victory and Joe's humiliation of Jerry Quarry, would draw millions of people with many millions of dollars. Both fighters seem to have improved since their second bout. This fight could easily be sold as one in which the two fighters are equal to, if not surpassing, the skillful greats they were in their first confrontation.

Ali is aware of the public clamor for a third "Superfight." Though training for such a fight would be a punishing ordeal, Ali realizes the outcome would make him fabulously wealthy. Win or lose, he could retire after this fight and live like a sultan if he desired. Nothing would be beyond his financial grasp. Following the Frazier bout would be 50 years of indulging his every whim.

The Ali magic could imbue even a mediocre fight with enough excitement to

Ali salutes to the adoring crowd as he prepares to board his plane home from Kinshasa two days after the fight. With his popularity at an all-time high, it was almost unthinkable that the 32-year-old Ali might retire from boxing.



A third fight with Joe Frazier (pictured fielding a left hand in his second fight with Ali) had the potential to make "The Greatest" wealthy beyond his wildest dreams. Just as Ali was coming off an excellent win, so too was Frazier, who'd stopped Jerry Quarry in the fifth round in June '74.

make the public pay to witness the event. He could make a fortune fighting men who couldn't make Joe "King" Roman break into a sweat. Ali has said he'd be interested in a couple of easy bouts. There's no doubt the public would also be interested. Right now, people would pay money to see Ali walk across the street.

While the rest of the economy flounders, boxing may find itself in a financial renaissance. During an economic depression, the sport historically flourishes. If Ali can remain in boxing for another two years, he could find himself the most successful commodity in the country. He won't even have to name a price. Desperate men will guarantee him sums beyond his wildest dreams. Ali is now depression-proof.

Ali's earning capabilities need not be restricted to himself and his family. By now, no one can doubt Muhammad is sincerely interested in helping black people be given the chance to reach their capabilities. As a fundraiser, especially while he holds the title, Ali could garner fortunes for any institution he chooses. And as his recent commercials with Jonas Salk to combat multiple sclerosis show, Ali is interested in helping humanity regardless of race, religion, or creed. Ali's charisma could earn more for charities than he could ever earn himself. However, no one knows how long the charisma will remain after Ali voluntarily leaves the sport.

Ali recognizes his title as heavyweight champion gives him a platform and easy access to the media. A retired ex-champion joins a host of minor celebrities about whom little is written. Whatever became of Ingemar Johansson? Ali loves the limelight too much and has too great a concern for his celebrity status to forsake it at its height.

Ali is nothing if not a proud man. While speculation exists that a fighter could defeat him, Muhammad is an unsatisfied man. He knows he's the greatest and expects due recognition. He glories in being able to say to nonbelievers, "I told you so. I am the greatest!" It's doubtful Ali would wish to sacrifice his moment of triumph at the post-fight press conference.

Muhammad Ali loves boxing. He loves training, loves the excitement, and loves the actual bout. Few men in the sport's history have been so dedicated to its discipline as Ali. Before it's all over, Muhammad could make Jersey Joe Walcott seem like a youngster. Remember, few champions have been less hit than Ali. His style is designed for longevity.

Few men could reject all the inducements Muhammad Ali faces to remain in boxing. He has everything to gain. Ali has plenty of time to find out whether his fame can extend past his fighting career. He needn't take the gamble for many years to come.

As Angelo Dundee says, Ali enjoys meeting presidents, prime ministers, and just about everybody. He's on a trip and quite simply is the best-known human being in any walk of life in the world today.

And that's why Ali will not pack it in. There is still too much joy to be mined from being Muhammad Ali—world's heavyweight champion. ■

Thinking Back ...

BIG GEORGE FOREMAN WAS BETTER OFF LOSING

It sure is weird how things turn out in the long run. If somebody had told you, the morning after the Ali-Foreman fight, that Foreman would come back to regain the heavyweight title 20 years later and go on to become the wealthiest boxer in history, thanks to his commercial endorsements, you would have thought that they had taken more punches to the head than Foreman.

But here we are on the 30th anniversary of that epic battle, and Foreman is on top of the world, a household name even to those who have never seen a boxing match. His reemergence as an American icon is one of the greatest sports stories of all-time, and in a way, Foreman's rebirth started the moment he fell to Ali's flashing fists that dark night in Africa so many years ago.

In early-September, THE RING Editor-in-Chief Nigel Collins spoke to Foreman about "The Rumble In The Jungle" for this celebratory magazine within a magazine. Collins reports:

"I thought George might be a bit hesitant to talk about his greatest defeat, but that was not the case. He was, as always, generous and forthcoming, happy to relive the experience and share his insights. His subtle sense of humor was also in evidence when I opened our conversation by asking him if he could believe it had been 30 years since the Ali fight. 'That wasn't me over there,' he joked before getting down to answering all my questions with relaxed candor and a great appreciation for the strange twists of fate that have brought him to the place in life he currently enjoys."

The Ring: What was your first reaction when you heard your fight with Muhammad Ali was going to be held in Zaire?

George Foreman: Originally, I didn't want to do it, and I don't think Muhammad Ali wanted to go to Africa. No one wanted to go to Africa. We didn't want to go that far; it was a fight that belonged in Madison Square Garden. But what happened is that I had agreed with Don King to do the fight if he would keep it quiet until after my divorce was final. And because he did that favor for me, I owed him a favor. So when he came up with Africa, what could I say but, "Okay, I owe you a favor."

The Ring: The $5-million that you and Ali each got was, at that time, the largest purse ever paid for any fight. How important was the $5-million?

GF: The $5-million was a big part of it. One of the reasons I made the fight was that I'd heard through the grapevine that Muhammad was pretty much broke and he needed the fight. I had agreed to the $5-million before I heard that he wanted the same, but when I got the message that he wanted $5-million, what could I say, that $5-million wasn't enough? That was a big amount back then, but after Joe Frazier and Muhammad got $2.5-million each for their first fight at the Garden, everyone knew that there wasn't a cap on what could be offered a fighter.

The Ring: Zaire's President Mobutu had a pretty bad reputation. What did you know about him before you went there?

GF: Nothing at all. I had no political knowledge of Africa. Some of the guys came over and spoke with me and told me that people think that everything in Africa is about people running around without clothes in the jungle. Some of the ministers of tourism told me that they wanted the fight to show people that Zaire was a great country with lots of civilization. Of course, they didn't get into the politics. I remember that Muhammad kept joking that when we got to Africa (former Zaire Prime Minister Patrice) Lumumba's boys are gonna cook and eat you. They were offended by that and asked him to stop. So from then on we knew not to make political jokes about Africa.

The Ring: Did you meet Mobutu?

GF: Yes, I did. He was strictly a political creature—greet, shake hands, "glad to have you," "who's next?" There was nothing personal at all.

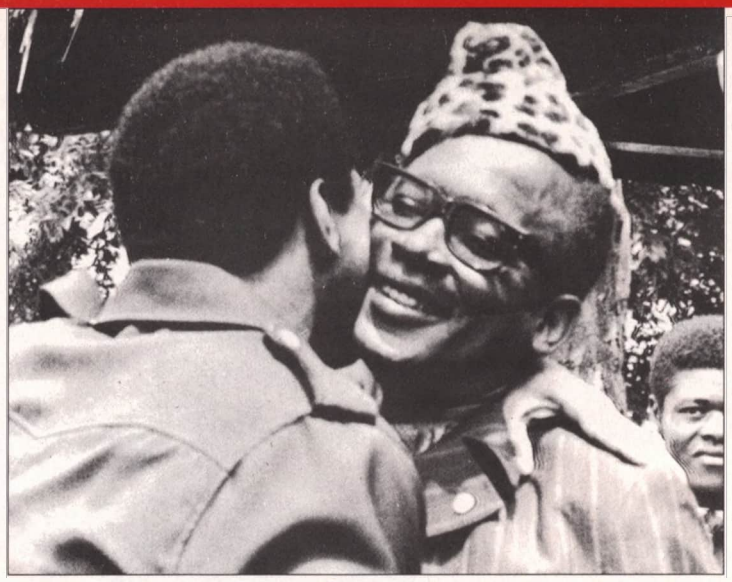
The Ring: Part of the package we're

"I Think I'd Have Been Champ, Champ, Champ, And Then Burned, Burned, Burned"

PHOTO BY PAM FRANCIS/GETTY IMAGES

putting together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Rumble In The Jungle is an article Don King wrote for THE RING back in 1974 about how he made the fight. He wrote that after chasing you all over the world, he finally spoke to you in a parking lot in San Francisco, where you agreed to the fight. Is that true?

GF: What happened is that King kept showing up, and everybody was saying bad things about him. At the time I was doing boxing shows for Video Techniques with Hank Schwartz and Barry Bernstein. These guys were my friends, especially Barry, and Don King would be with them all the time. He never said a word to me. Finally, he spoke to me in Livermore, California, which is close to San Francisco, in a parking lot. He said, "Listen, George, everybody thinks I'm a con man. They're against me because of my color, but if I'm given a chance to promote, I can come up with the money. Just give me a chance, please." And he went on with the "brother" stuff. Finally, I said, "Okay, if you can come up with the money. But I can't sign yet because I'm going through a divorce, but I will sign this piece of paper and you build the contract around that." He broke down crying and ran with the thing.



Ali greets President Mobutu of Zaire. Foreman, who knew little of African politics, also met the notorious dictator. But he says there was no real personal conversation from Mobutu, who didn't even attend the fight, watching instead from the safety of his palace. Foreman called him "strictly a political creature."

The Ring: What was your first impression when you got to Zaire?

GF: I'm not going to lie; I didn't want to leave the United States. When I got there, they put us in some barracks after a long ride from the airport. My first impression was: Fifteen days and then I'm out of here.

The Ring: Of course, when you were cut sparring with Bill McMurray and the fight was postponed, you ended up staying a lot longer.

GF: My rhythm was so great, and the guy had never seen me coming on like that with so much rhythm and so many punches. So he threw his elbow up to cover up, and I ran right into the elbow. He was surprised and hurt, and I was too. The first thing (trainer Dick) Sadler said was, "You're not cut." And I said, "Yes I am cut." I never did see a doctor. Never did get any stitches.

The Ring: There were stories at the time that you wanted to leave the country, but that Mobutu wouldn't let you. Was that true?

GF: I didn't want to be there. I really wanted to get to a doctor and have it checked out. But these guys overwhelmed me. They believed that if you left the country you weren't coming back, and said, "Whatever you do, don't leave the country. Give us a chance to promote the fight." And I had Don King and his group of guys begging and pleading, and finally I agreed. There was a story that we wouldn't have been able to leave anyway, but as far as I'm concerned, that was just a story.

The Ring: Did the postponement help or hinder your conditioning?

GF: I got in better shape. I started running like I never had before, because I couldn't spar.

The Ring: Is it true that the IRS sent five agents to Zaire to make sure Uncle Sam got his tax money?

GF: That's not true, not at all. All the money I got never left the United States of America. I didn't have to collect one penny over there.

The Ring: Did it bother you at the time that most of the people in Zaire were rooting for Ali?

GF: That never happened. That was a myth. It got started and nobody stopped it. People were running down the street yelling, "Foreman, bomaye!" They were warm and friendly and nice. They liked me as much as I wanted to be liked. I wasn't one of those guys seeking out anything. The one thing I can tell you about Muhammad: He truly wanted those people to love him, and he got a little bit more love and warmth from the people than me. But I did not care at that time. Muhammad was one of those people who was always seeking love. Me, I never did do that. No, no, no. I wasn't looking for that kind of affection.

The Ring: Did you have a fight plan beyond just trying to knock out Ali?

GF: No, that was all. I expected to knock him out in two, three rounds.

The Ring: Did either of your trainers, Dick Sadler or Archie Moore, say, "Hey, George, this may go more than a couple of rounds."

GF: No, they all told me to go out there and knock him out. It's not going but one or two rounds.

The Ring: At what point during the fight did you realize that things were going badly?

GF: I think maybe the fourth round. I knew then that it just wasn't going to work. I'd beaten this guy really good, hit him with my best shot, and he was still on his feet. I saw some encouragement in his eyes, and I was getting tired.

The Ring: At that point, did either Sadler or Moore come up with something different for you to try?

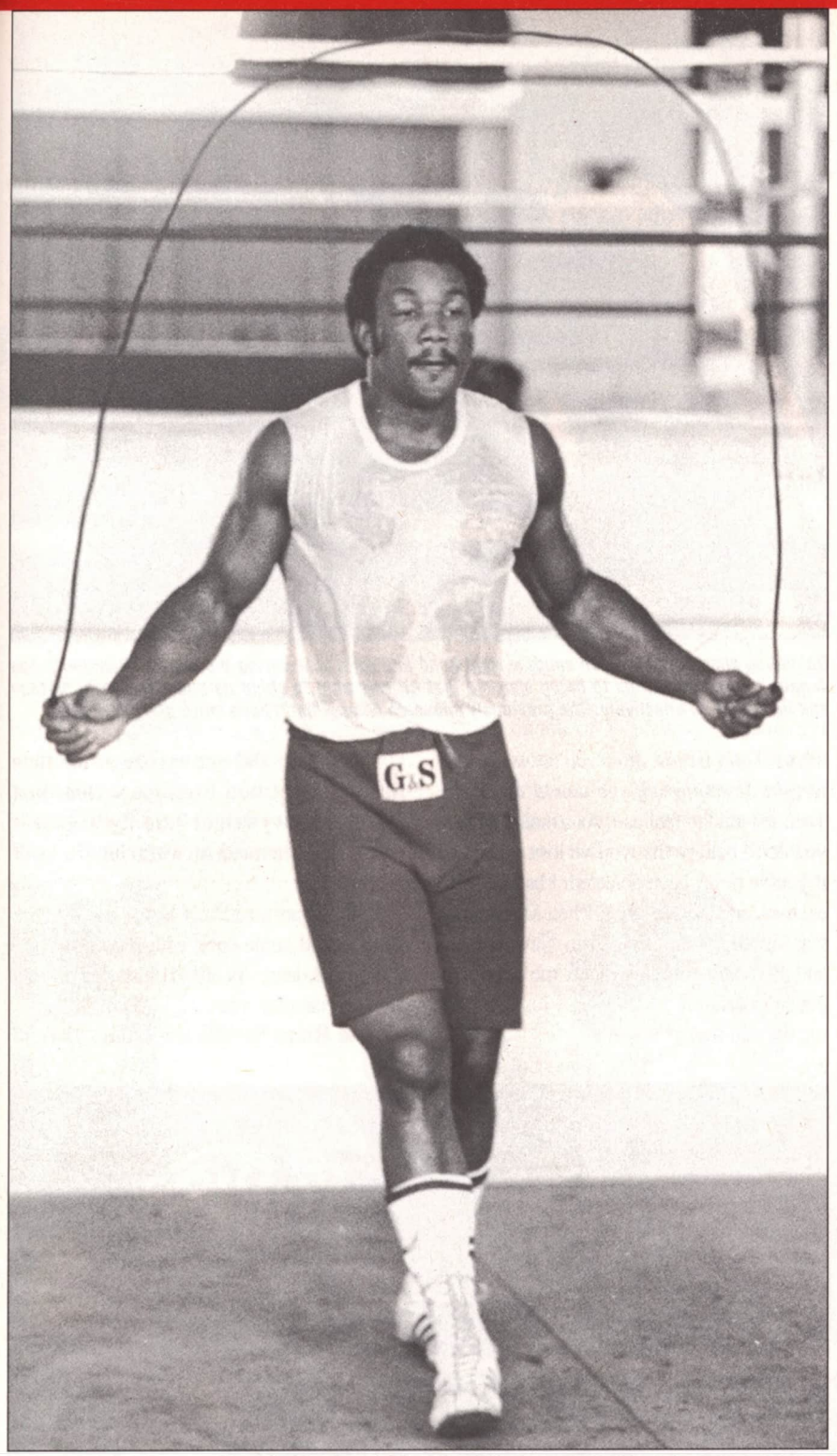
GF: Nothing. They just kept hitting me on my leg and telling me to get him.

The Ring: What did you think when Ali withstood those vicious bodyshots you landed?

GF: I was shocked. I hit this guy so hard a couple of times, and he would be stunned a little bit, but then he'd look right back up at me.

The Ring: How tired were you when you went down in the eighth round? Was it exhaustion, the punch, or both?

GF: It was the punch. He got me with a good right hand. I've got to admit that. I got



Foreman skips rope in Kinshasa while prepping for the Ali fight. Ironically, considering that Foreman ran out of gas, he says that the postponement that resulted from getting cut by an errant elbow in sparring gave him more time to get in shape.

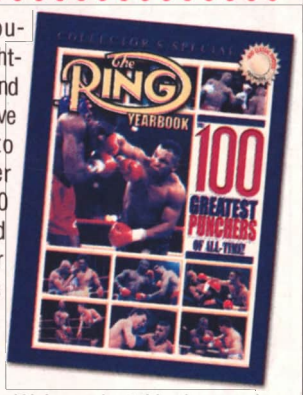
hit with a very good right hand right on the jaw. I was coming after him, so that made the impact that much more. It didn't hurt me, but it stunned me. I tried to keep my balance. But I spun around and hit the floor. He caught me good. It was a doozy, and very quick.

The Ring: Did losing affect you emotionally?

GF: At first it was a physical thing; my back hurt. I went to Paris for a few days, and then went to Hawaii for a few days. Finally, I could wake up and say: *You know*

www.TITLEBOXING.com
www.TITLEBOXING.com
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING

BOXING'S GREATEST PUNCHERS



Tens of thousands of fighters from around the world have climbed into the ring over the past 100 years, armed only with their gloved fists and the willpower to rise to their destructive best. We've painstakingly pared them down to the 100 hardest hitters of all-time in order to present this 108-page showcase. The editors have scoured *The Ring's* vast archives to present the most cherished photographs ever assembled in one boxing publication.

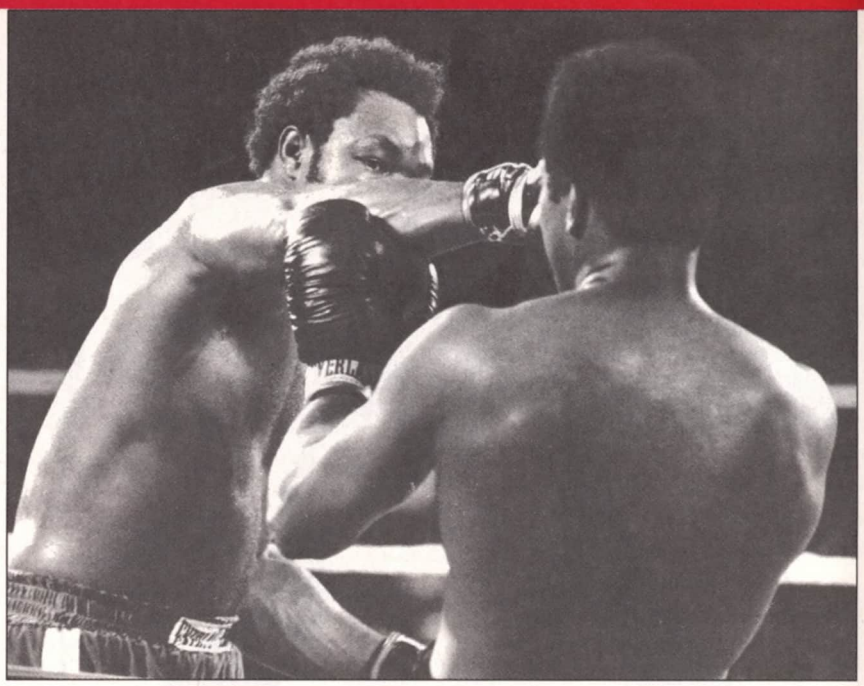
☑ Please send me
THE RING PRESENTS:
BOXING'S GREATEST PUNCHERS
I am enclosing $9.95 per copy (plus $2 postage and handling) as payment in full.

Please indicate method of payment:
☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
#_____
Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR
Signature:_____

Send To:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Print your name and address clearly
Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____ Zip_____

For all orders outside the U.S., please add postage as follows: Canada—Surface mail: $3.00; Airmail: $3.50. Foreign—Surface mail: $4.00; Airmail: $8.00. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.
6392-8/03



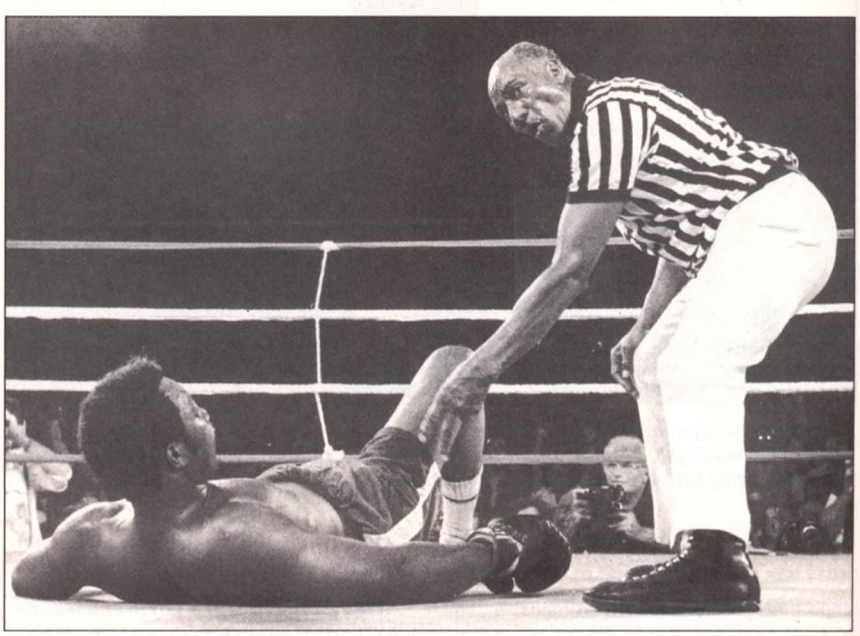
Defending champion Foreman sends a right hand into Ali's face during the fabled "Rumble In The Jungle." Foreman admits to being shocked that Ali was able to stand up under his early barrage and fight back so effectively. The previously unbeaten champ didn't have much of a game plan.

what? You lost the title; you're not heavyweight champion of the world anymore. Then I started to feel bad. As a matter of fact, you don't believe that you've lost, especially if you've never been defeated. I had all these excuses, and then in 1978, when Muhammad was fighting Leon Spinks in New Orleans and a reporter came by to ask me what happened in Zaire, I said, "Man, I lost. He beat me fair and square."

The Ring: Did you realize at the time that the fight had been more than just another heavyweight title fight, that it would come to mean an awful lot to a lot of people?

GF: I had no idea. I never thought the thing would come back with a documentary and an Academy Award. You started hearing about it year after year.

The Ring: Besides the fallacy that all



Referee Zack Clayton counts over Foreman after Ali landed the fight-ending right hand with a few seconds remaining in the eighth round. Although he made excuses at first, now Foreman gives Ali full credit and calls the punch that ended his reign a "doozy."

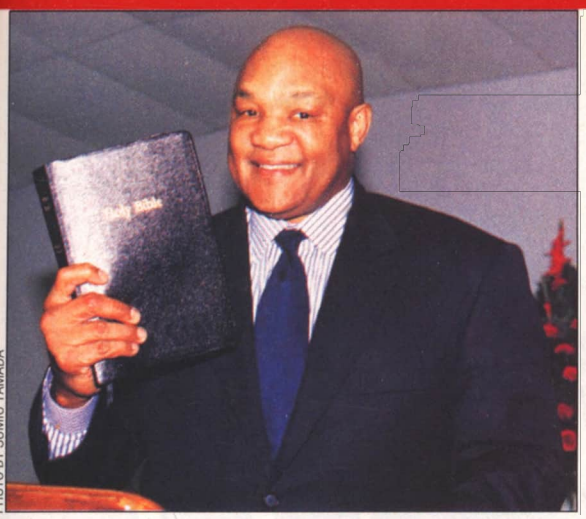


PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Foreman at his church, where he still preaches every Sunday. Big George believes that if he had won The Rumble, he probably would not have gone on to become the man he is today, rich, happy, and more famous than ever.

the fans in Zaire were for Ali, are there any other misconceptions surrounding the fight?

Foreman: I heard a terrible story about how the people in Africa didn't like dogs, that they were afraid of German shepherds because of the colonialism and all that. What a lie! They have dog breeders there, dog lovers. My dog would run and fetch sticks. Wherever I went, they knew my dog and liked my dog. These were very cultured people who had no fear of animals. As a matter of fact, I have one painting that an African artist gave me of me and my German shepherd sitting together. They weren't afraid of German shepherd dogs. When I look back on it, I hate that people told stories about the people that just weren't so.

The Ring: Have you ever gone back to Zaire since the Ali fight?

GF: I have. I went back in 1979 as a preacher. There were more people in the stadium at that time than there were at the fight. I got nothing but cheers. I got in a plane and visited some of the villages that were far off. But I was too much of a celebrity to really get into a sermon. A lot of people just came to see me. It was nothing but love and admiration and friendship. Some of the government officials had me over their homes to eat local dishes. It was really nice.

The Ring: In retrospect, was the Rumble a negative or a positive thing for you in the long run?

GF: Positive. If this had not happened, I would have sunk just like Al "Blue" Lewis. Do you remember Al "Blue" Lewis?

The Ring: Oh, yes. I remember when he fought Ali in Ireland.

GF: The fight in Zaire put George Foreman ahead of Sonny Liston, Floyd Patterson, and others who lost to Ali. If that hadn't have happened, I would have been just one of the so-called champions. If you asked me to take back one inch—well, that right hand got me pretty good—but if you take that away, everything was peachy.

The Ring: Do you think all the great things that have happened to you since would still have happened if you had beaten Ali in Zaire?

GF: I don't think so. I think I'd have been champ, champ, champ, and then burned, burned, burned, punched out, punch drunk, and that would have been the end of it.

But you know what would be really great? If Ali and I could get together again sometime. That would be great. ■

Foreman, patch over his cut eye, relaxes with his dog in Kinshasa. Foreman says that all the stories about the people of Zaire being afraid of dogs were lies, and that the locals liked both him and his German shepherd.

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

THE LASTING IMPACT OF ALI-FOREMAN

How THE RUMBLE Changed The World

By Gavin Evans

Great historical conflicts—wars, revolutions, social upheavals, and, yes, even boxing matches—tend to be remembered in waves. Even for those who experience them, the inclination to revisit becomes rationed after a while, confined to the back of the brain and periodically brought forward through cultural prods of one kind or another: an anniversary, a television program, a book, a magazine article.

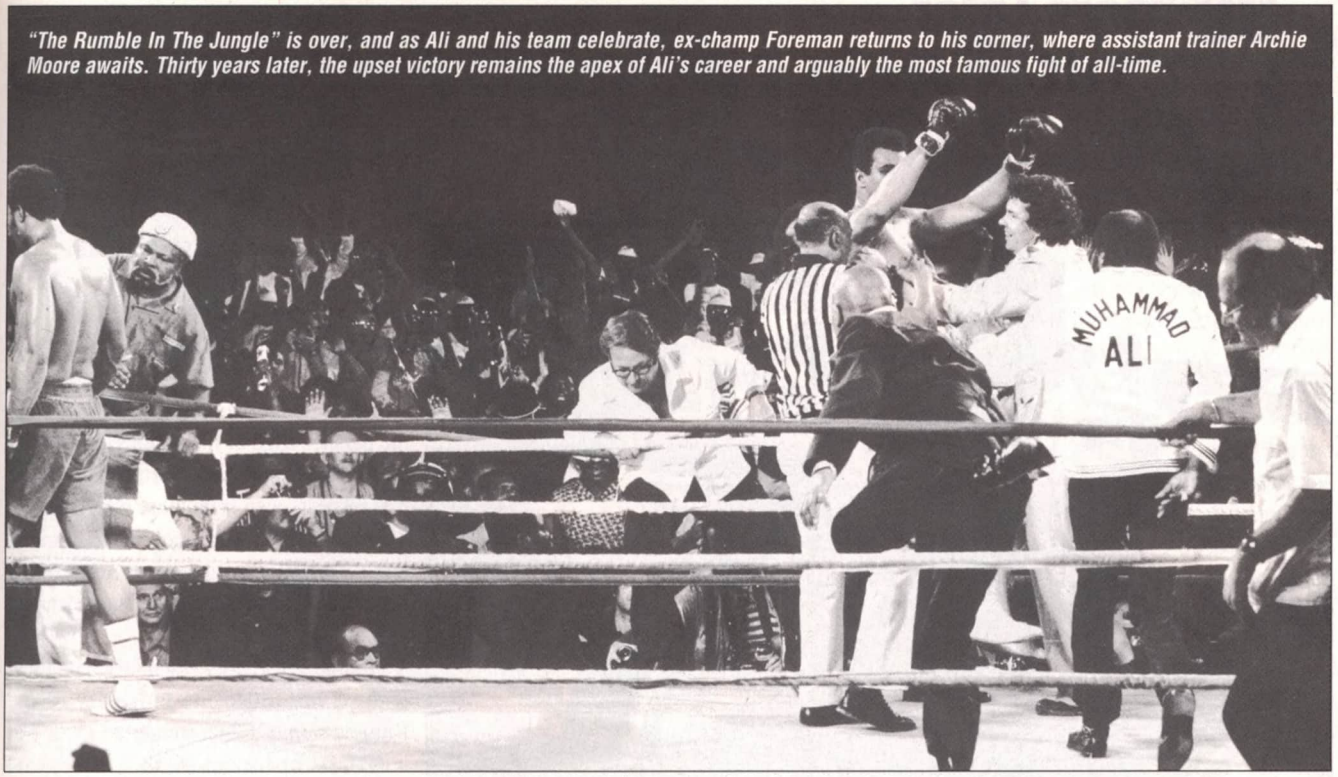
Over the last decade we've been constantly prodded with reminders of the most significant event in our sport's history. For anyone old enough to remember, Muhammad Ali's audaciously idiosyncratic eight-round knockout of George Foreman in Kinshasa in the former Zaire on October 30, 1974, definitely qualifies as one of those where-were-you-when moments.

The initial shockwaves were probably more lasting than any other fight before or since. For one thing, the result was genuinely shocking: an apparently declining, arm-punching Ali, at nearly 33, not only outsmarting the seemingly invincible, rock-jawed 25-year-old Foreman, but knocking him out. Think about it. Never before (or since) had one truly great world heavyweight champion at the peak of his powers been stopped by another. Ali's rope-a-dope method of drawing the bigger man's sting became a kind of shorthand for his inventive guile. He chanced upon Foreman's weak link—a lack of stamina, an obsession with finishing the job quickly—and exploited it to a thoroughly illogical conclusion.

But this was far more than simply a huge upset produced by a remarkable boxer, which is why we are still talking about it 30 years on.

Its geographical context certainly helped. This, after all, was the first-ever world heavyweight title fight in Africa and the delay (caused by Foreman's sparring cut) meant that the main players remained on hand for a month, absorbing their African experience. Ali himself milked the environment while drawing inspiration from his observations about African pilots, doctors, and children. Others, like Norman Mailer (whose book, *The Fight*, came out a few months later and helped define the significance of the event), pried a bit deeper, noticing some of the less savory aspects of life under the dictator Joseph Mobutu.

Still, a lot of nonsense was sprouted about "negritude" and "the succubus" and African ways, but few bothered to question the authenticity of what passed before their eyes. The reality was, as ever, more complicated. The authentic leader from this region had been Patrice Lumumba, but his mildly socialist policies did not endear him to the Belgians or the CIA, who gave a nudge and a wink to their friend Mobutu, prompting Lumumba's assassination. Mobutu proved useful in the Cold War, but at a terrible cost



"The Rumble In The Jungle" is over, and as Ali and his team celebrate, ex-champ Foreman returns to his corner, where assistant trainer Archie Moore awaits. Thirty years later, the upset victory remains the apex of Ali's career and arguably the most famous fight of all-time.

to his people. He was a brutal kleptomaniac and mass murderer who raped his country in every conceivable way, and his horrible legacy will be felt for at least another generation or two by the war-ravaged people of the Great Lakes region.

The fight was partly funded by money stolen by Mobuto, and, needless to say, no benefits accrued to his people or to the rest of Africa. In this sense, its location proved to be no more lasting than an exotically risque backdrop. After all, this turned out to be the only world heavyweight title fight in the continent until Lennox Lewis lost his crown to another American Muslim, Hasim Rahman, 27 years later (with a head-shaking Foreman watching sagely from ringside).

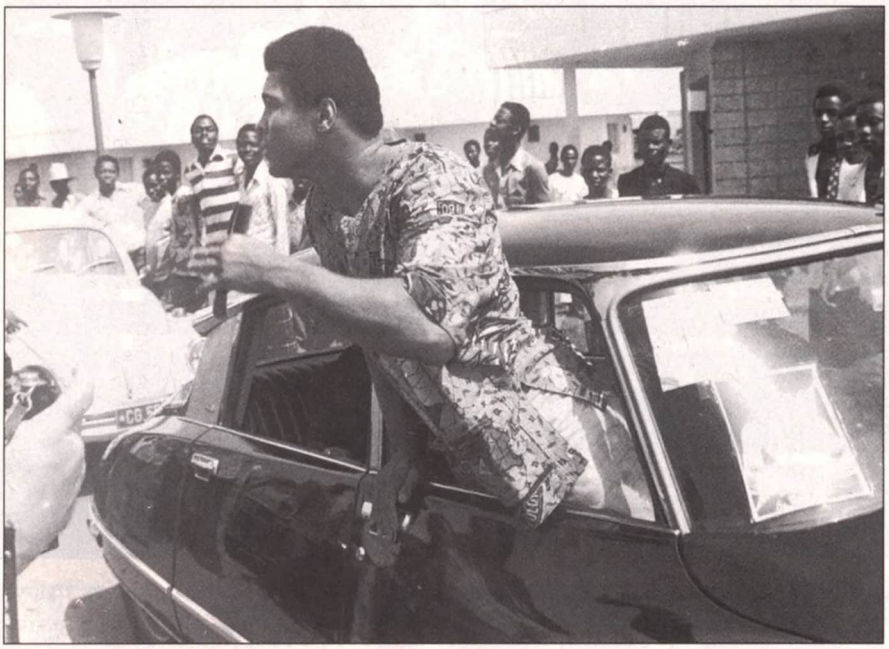
Which is not to say the Rumble lacked impact in Africa. Ali followed Riddick Bowe in visiting South Africa in 1993, but while the reigning world heavyweight champion was the subject of, at best, mild curiosity, huge crowds greeted the then-51-year-old former champion as a heroic figure, and the most vivid memory, repeated over and over by his hosts, was of his triumph in Kinshasa.

Six days after the Rumble, when the news reached the village of Giyani in Gazankulu in South Africa's deep north, a delighted father decided to call his newborn son "Cassuis" (misspelling Cassius) because, "my dad was so delighted because he was such a fan of The Greatest" (and, presumably, no one told him that Ali no longer used that name). Cassius Baloyi went on to become a world-rated junior lightweight.

Two hundred miles south, Baloyi's white compatriot, seven-year-old Francois Botha, watched the fight, and decided this was his destiny. "That's where my dreams started," he said years later. "I said to my

A photograph of Zaire's president, Joseph Mobutu, dominated the front of the stadium where the Ali-Foreman fight was held. But behind the smiling veneer lurked a military dictator who did little, if anything, to help the impoverished people of his nation. The Rumble did not bring the expected prosperity to Zaire.

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED



Already a hero throughout the Third World, Ali made himself as accessible as possible during his month-long stay in Zaire. The way he bonded with the people only enhanced his popularity.

dad, 'One day I'm going to win the heavyweight championship of the world.'"

Although he never became world heavyweight champion, Botha did, of course, go on to become a contender. All over the world there were scores of similar stories: lads so inspired by Ali's victory that they were turned on to boxing.

More than any other fight, more even than Ali's first victory over Sonny Liston or his second over Joe Frazier, this was the quintessential Muhammad moment. It signaled his redemption, a decade after first winning the title and seven years after being unjustly stripped of it for refusing to fight in Vietnam.

When Ali was driven out of boxing in 1967, he may have been a hero to black America, Africa, Asia, South America, and much of Europe, but most of white America desisted. His stand on the war was not yet that of the majority and his views on race were considered alien and threatening.

But by October 1974, America was in a state of untidy retreat in Vietnam, the social unrest at home was winding down, and Ali's stand had been vindicated. It was a depressed and introverted period in American history. Defeat in Southeast Asia, Richard Nixon's disgrace, his replacement by Gerald Ford, and "stagflation" as a result of the international oil crisis made many Americans look inward and forget the conflicts of the 1960s.

Ali's image became uncoupled from the harsher edge of his politics. His battles with Frazier and Ken Norton had earned him respect, even from those who despised his worldview, and once he triumphed over Big George, a new generation of Americans, white as well as black, learned to love him.

In one sense, this essentially apolitical context has aided the longevity of the Rumble because its meaning is not tied to a defined historical event, unlike, say, Jack Johnson-Jim Jeffries (lynchings, racial madness) or Joe Louis-Max Schmeling (Hitler, anti-Nazism). It is always open to reinterpretation.

Still, like every great historical event, the Rumble slipped from the center of our consciousness for a while. Ali could have, should have, retired then and there, but, of course, the story ran and ran, and thus the impact of the event inevitably faded. A year later came "The Thrilla In Manila," when Ali

Fight fans watch Ali-Foreman in an appliance showroom. One of the reasons The Rumble In The Jungle had such a huge impact was that it was available via TV virtually throughout the world.

In an indirect way, Foreman regaining the heavyweight title by knocking out Michael Moorer 20 years after the Rumble also raised Ali's profile. In its own way, Foreman's comeback was just as remarkable as Ali's victory in Kinshasa.

was taken to the wire by an inspired Frazier, and from there on the law of diminishing returns kicked in. Ali's lucky survival against Norton was followed by his close run against Earnie Shavers, and then his struggles against the novice Leon Spinks, his battering at the hands of Larry Holmes, and finally, seven years after the Rumble, his sad finale against Trevor Berbick.

These ever-bleaker pictures competed with the triumphant memory of Zaire, and placed it in a different light. By then Ali was already fluffing his consonants, and we all feared the worst. We wanted to turn our eyes and forget, and in any event, we had an alternative attraction, a new, iconic figure fit for the rapacious 1980s: Mike Tyson.

And so, for a decade, Ali's light dimmed while we adjusted to his changed reality. But then, just when he seemed to be following the fading path of his greatest predecessors, Ali mounted a comeback; his image was reconstructed and reinterpreted bit-by-bit, with Kinshasa, 1974, always at the center of the picture.

Helping to launch Ali's reemergence, oddly enough, was Foreman. Forget what he did to Frazier and Norton before, or Frazier and Ron Lyle after, Foreman was forever the giant who fell to Muhammad in the jungle. Once it became clear he would never again see action with Ali, he went to pasture, pickled his body in fat, acquired wit and wisdom, played the preacher man, and bided his time. Big George had some good jokes about cheeseburgers, but his best was about the Rumble. And we all chuckled along, delighted he'd found a way of overcoming such a life-defining setback.

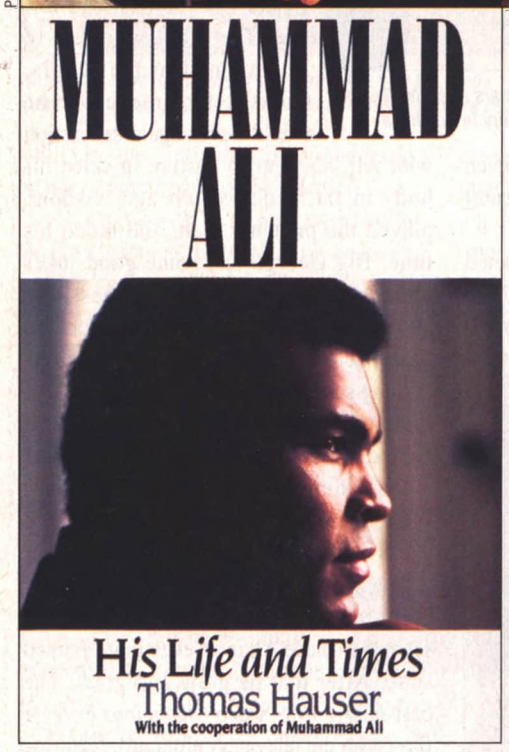
But those who looked closer noticed that behind the avuncular smile, Foreman was still seething about what happened until finally, 20 years on, he steeled himself to wreak soft vengeance on the sneering lot of us by regaining the world title.

Foreman's return, starting in 1987, seemed to place Ali in an even more exulted state. After that he grew and grew. The best-selling 1989 video *Champions Forever* (based on the television program), featuring Ali, Foreman, Frazier, Holmes, and Norton, showed the contemporary Muhammad in positive light. Despite his Parkinson's syndrome, his self-deprecating wit emerged once more, and it was clear that whatever Ali had lost physically and verbally, his humor and intelligence were still as sharp as ever. Thomas Hauser's award-winning biography, *Muhammad Ali: His Life And*

Ali, Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes, and Ken Norton appeared on Phil Donahue's show in the late-'80s, having become stars all over again thanks to Foreman's revival and the video **Champions Forever.** *The Rumble was the centerpiece of the greatest heavyweight era ever.*

30 Years Later
THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE REVISITED

PHOTO BY FRANK CONNOR/COLUMBIA PICTURES



Books and movies about Ali have become somewhat of a cottage industry in recent years, including Thomas Hauser's biography (left) and Will Smith's movie (above). Naturally, his fight with Foreman usually plays a pivotal role in any project involving Ali's career.

Times, first published in 1991, gave us the most complete and rounded picture of the man. Hauser concluded that Ali "looked stronger and more at peace with himself than any person I've ever known."

After that came the deluge: world tours, the re-marketing of his image, the Oscar-winning documentary on the Foreman fight, *When We Were Kings*, a library of new Ali books and videos, his torch-lighting at the Atlanta Olympics, the arrival of his daughter as a major figure in women's boxing, his contribution to the 9/11 aftermath, and the Will Smith movie, introducing Ali to a new generation. At the age of 62, he is back where he belongs and his greatest victory is at the center of the picture.

So what does it mean for us now? Its significance comes from the fact that it remains the most important and universal moment in boxing history. Before Ali's arrival, the heavyweight title was essentially an American preserve, either watched with admiration or ignored by the rest of the world. Ali was the exception, and his victory over Foreman confirmed it. Even more than Joe Louis, he was a *world* champion, a boxer who was the most famous face in the world, and October 30, 1974, crystallized this image into global adulation. Nothing before or since can compare. After Zaire, he consolidated this status by taking the show on the road (Malaysia, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Germany, the Bahamas), but even if he'd retired, Ali would have stood above the rest on the strength of his victory over Foreman and all that preceded it.

In addition to all the other elements in Ali's image—his looks, flamboyance, sense of humor, doggerel, politics, religion, and most of all courage—there was an epic quality to his quest: unexpected triumph, followed by adversity from unexpected quarters, leading to exile, defeat, a long and bumpy road back, and finally, triumph and vindication in the jungle.

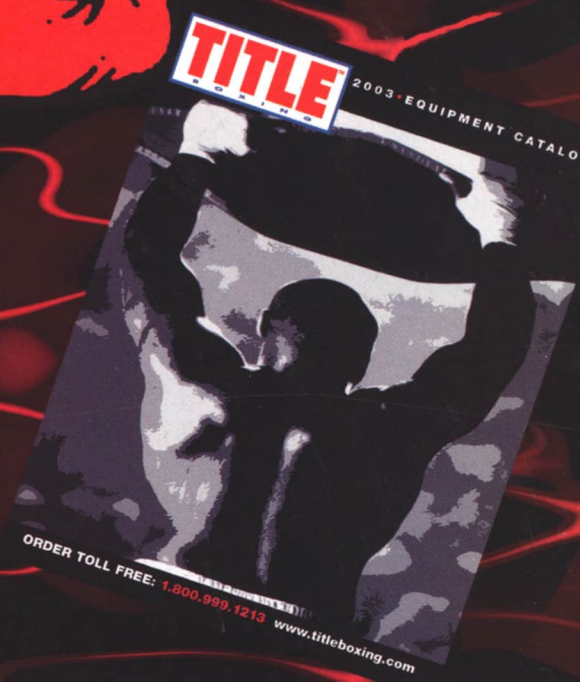
From there, the trajectory was, inevitably, downhill, for boxing as well as for the boxer. The Rumble In The Jungle heralded the emergence of Don King as a major player, and was followed by a new era tainted by each of the seven deadly sins. With Ali still fighting, the title was dismembered, devoured, and periodically re-assembled by self-serving businesses posing as alphabet bodies, prompting the retreat of free television and the mainstream media.

There have been some magnificent fights since the Rumble featuring the likes of Holmes, Tyson, Holyfield, Lewis, Leonard, Hagler, Hearns, and De La Hoya, to name a few. Many have generated more money than Ali ever earned and in their way have been huge events, but for all their thrills they were just boxing matches, some far better fights than Ali-Foreman, others more controversial, but all of them lacking historical resonance. In comparison they remain parochial. They are unlikely to produce treatises by literary novelists or Oscar-winning documentaries or blockbuster feature films. They will fade and each wave of memory will be smaller than the last.

Ali-Foreman is different. It is our high point, boxing's greatest event ever, and we can be sure that for a long time to come it will remain in focus. ■

London-based freelance writer Gavin Evans was living in South Africa when Ali-Foreman took place and watched the closed-circuit telecast at the Alhambra Cinema in Cape Town.

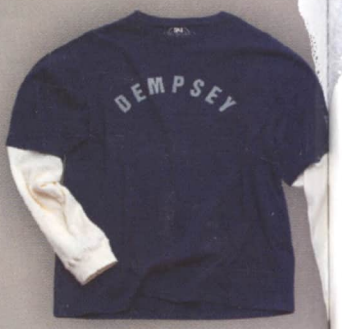
TITLE
BOXING



BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST®
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

www.everlastboxing.com
Your Direct Source For Everlast

Call 1-800-999-1213 for a free catalog
or visit our website at www.titleboxing.com



EVERLAST
★
HERITAGE

www.everlast.com

© TM 2004 Jack Dempsey, Rocky Marciano, Floyd Patterson, Joe Louis, Ray Robinson Properties & Licensing by CMG Worldwide, www.CMGWorldwide.com